

Israeli soldier hit; activist detained

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinians dropped a concrete block on the head of an Israeli soldier in the occupied West Bank on Sunday. The army said he was critically wounded. The military imposed a curfew on Nablus after the block was dropped from the roof of a house on an army patrol moving through the city's crowded market. Military censors delayed this report for nine hours. Israeli police detained Palestinian activist Ali Abu Hilal, 35, outside a house occupied by Jewish settlers in the Arab East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Silwan. Mr. Abu Hilal, expelled by the Israelis in 1986, returned to the West Bank last month. Israel allowed him back in return for the body of one of its soldiers captured in Lebanon a 1 killed in an air raid. Security sources said Mr. Abu Hilal was arrested because he "looked suspicious."

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Bahrain, U.S. sign defence pact

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain and the U.S. signed a defence cooperation pact Sunday, the Gulf News Agency said. It quoted a Bahraini Foreign Ministry statement as saying the pact reflected the "solid friendly relations between Bahrain and the U.S. and is considered as a continuation for the fruitful cooperation between them." The agency gave no further details. Admiral Raynor Taylor, commander of the U.S. naval forces in the Gulf, told Reuters last month that the pact would cover expanded facilities for U.S. naval forces. Kuwait and the United States signed a 10-year defence pact in September allowing Washington to stockpile military supplies in the emirate and to send planes and ships there in any new emergency. A U.S.-led alliance liberated Kuwait from seven months of Iraqi occupation in February.

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Public rally to be held today

AMMAN (J.T.) — A public rally to voice opposition to the Madrid peace conference will be held Monday at the Professional Associations Complex in Amman at 6 p.m., Lower House of Parliament Member Leith Shbeilat said. The rally will be attended by members of the Muslim Brotherhood, Al Tahir Islamic Party, the Arab Baath Party, the Jordanian Revolutionary Party and the Jordan Arab National Democratic Alliance (JANDA) as well as several parliamentarians, he said.

Gorbachev, Mitterrand to meet in France

PARIS (R) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and President Francois Mitterrand will meet Wednesday in southwest France, Mr. Mitterrand's office said Sunday. The statement gave no details of the summit. French radio said Mr. Gorbachev, on his way back from the opening of the Madrid Middle East peace conference Wednesday, would call at Mr. Mitterrand's country home of Latche in the Landes forest. It will be their first meeting since last August's failed coup against Mr. Gorbachev. Mr. Mitterrand asked the coup leaders to release Mr. Gorbachev but has been criticised for apparently accepting he had been ousted. Mr. Gorbachev wrote in his book "The Putsch" that he talked with U.S. President George Bush at the end of his detention at his Crimea dacha during the putsch. "François Mitterrand was due to call me. He did not do it and I regret it to this day," he added.

Iranian parliament elections in April

NICOSIA (AP) — Elections for the Iranian parliament will be held April 10, Tehran Radio reported Sunday. The broadcast

that all potential candidates who currently hold high-ranking official posts will have to resign their positions at least two months before the registration date.

France urges end to Libya sanctions

ALGIERS (AP) — French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas urged Sunday that five-year-old European sanctions against Libya be dropped. Mr. Dumas spoke as the foreign ministers of France, Italy, Spain and Portugal discussed Mediterranean trade and immigration with their counterparts from Libya, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Mauritania. Mr. Dumas said at a news conference that European Community (EC) sanctions imposed on Libya in 1986 should be lifted.

U.S. returns to standard time

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States returned to standard time for the next five months Sunday when clocks were turned back one hour at 2 a.m. in each time zone. Daylight-saving time, which runs from the first Sunday in April until the last Sunday in October, resumes on April 5, 1992. It began this year on April 7. Eastern Standard Time in the United States is five hours behind Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

Sudan leader says no to political parties

KHARTOUM (R) — Military leader Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir says he will have no dealings with political parties, which he outlawed when he overthrew Sudan's last elected government in 1989. "There will be no return to a system of political parties, no dealing with sectarianism or tribalism in this country," Gen. Bashir said in a speech reported Sunday by the official news agency SUNA. Gen. Bashir's statement appeared to be a response to rumours that he had approached leaders of disbanded parties suggesting they share power with him.

Palestinian team voices confidence ahead of talks

By Sama Atyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Madrid Middle East conference was Sunday putting final touches to procedural and technical issues before its departure for the Spanish capital for the peace parley which opens Wednesday.

There were no differences left to iron out between the two sides, but there was still room to finalise the technical and procedural issues before the conference starts, Palestinian spokesperson Hanan Ashrawi said.

Dr. Ashrawi told reporters that there was a broad political agreement with the Jordanian government on the mechanism and the policy of joint Jordanian-Palestinian efforts.

"There is a broad political agreement between the Palestinian and Jordanian sides," Dr. Ashrawi said. "There is a long-term political agreement on coordination and the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation was formed on that basis."

She said that the round of meetings of the joint delegation focused on the negotiating strategy and the priorities of issues to be tackled in the negotiations with Israel.

"It is a process that would not succeed without constant and continuous coordination or without working as one team," Dr. Ashrawi said. "Of course they are two separate national entities in terms of identities — the national Jordanian identity and the national Palestinian identity — but the work must be united."

She added that the Palestinian side would address the opening of the American-Soviet sponsored conference and the speech was being prepared taking into consideration all suggestions and positions of Palestinian.

Dr. Ashrawi said that a controversy erupted after one of the delegates

said that the delegation was appointed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was over. After Sa'eb Erekat, a professor of political science and editor of Al Quds newspaper in Jerusalem, made his remarks to a U.S. television network, Israel threatened to walk out of the conference if he sat at the negotiating table.

"I understand from the Americans that this is not a problem and this is no longer an issue," Dr. Ashrawi said. "The Israelis as usual are trying to derail the process and trying to get us involved in issues not of substance." She added that the delegation had decided that no statement made by an individual would be binding or official unless they were issued by the head of the team or by the official spokesperson.

"I just hope that Mr. Shamir and the Israeli government will have the maturity and foresight to stop playing games with the peace process and to really take the task at hand very seriously," Dr. Ashrawi said.

Dr. Ashrawi, a professor of English literature at Bir Zeit University, urged the press "not to get trapped into such dramatic statements but to deal with the issues themselves."

Dr. Ashrawi, Faisal Husseini, who is heading the Palestinian team to the conference, and Haider Abdul Shafi, the head of the Palestinian negotiating team, arrived here from Cairo on Sunday.

Dr. Ashrawi described as "fruitful" their meetings with officials in Cairo. The Palestinian team held a round of talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Jeddah, with his leading aide Osama Al Baz and with Foreign Minister Amr Musa.

She said that President Mubarak had expressed his support to the statement of the five foreign ministers meeting in Damascus last week, during which they agreed not to sign unilateral agreements with Israel at the peace conference.

"He (Mr. Mubarak) expressed his optimism concerning Arab coordination and what could be done (at the conference)," Dr. Ashrawi said.

adding that the Egyptian president vowed to provide the delegation with all the help it needed.

She said the Palestinian team and Mr. Mubarak discussed the "needs of the Palestinians in Gaza," which she added was recorded by the Egyptians.

Thousands of Gazans carry Egyptian travel documents.

Dr. Ashrawi also said that Dr. Baz had briefed the team on Israel's negotiating strategy during the Camp David negotiations when Egypt made peace with the Jewish state.

"Although Egypt has no role in these negotiations — because it has no role in the bilateral negotiations — it could have a role in influencing the parties during the multilateral negotiations," Dr. Ashrawi said at the press conference.

Asked whether the attendance of the Gulf states could negatively affect the Palestinian position, Dr. Ashrawi stressed that "attending and concluding agreements are two different things."

"The Gulf states are free to attend, participate and to discuss issues... however, if you start concluding agreements before the time is right, which is to conclude agreements on one track and delay the other — then that would be detrimental," Dr. Ashrawi stated. "But I'm sure the Arab countries are aware of the pitfalls and dangers."

Asked if the Palestinians would begin multilateral negotiations, Dr. Ashrawi said that it was "not an issue of timing, it is one of substance."

"You can prepare the grounds for them, but at the same time you don't have to conclude anything until substantive progress was made on issues that are more vital," she said.

The professor added that there was no firm agreement between the Arab parties that any agreements at the negotiations would be concluded.

"There is a position that we will deal with multilateral talks in a way that supports the bilateral talks and in a way that does not harm us," she said.

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PLO insists on freeze of Israeli settlements

Arafat: No peace without Palestinians

Shaath: U.S. should resume dialogue

Combined agency dispatches

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) warned Sunday that Palestinians might walk out of Middle East peace talks if Israel did not halt its policy of settling Jews in the occupied territories.

"If they do not stop the settlements then we might not participate in the negotiations... we are not joking," PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo told Reuters.

He said the Palestinians had agreed to demand that Israel halt its controversial settlement-building in the West Bank and Gaza Strip immediately after the talks opened in Madrid on Wednesday.

The movement of settlers into existing settlements should also be stopped, he said.

Mr. Abed Rabbo told Reuters in Amman in an interview that Arab states had agreed to back the Palestinian stand. There was no indication however that they were also considering walking out if Israel does not quickly halt the settlements.

PLO Political Department Chief Fawzi Kaddoumi said in Paris that not only the PLO but also other Arabs states taking part in the peace conference will not begin subsequent bilateral talks until Israel stops building new settlements in the occupied territories.

Mr. Kaddoumi said that the foreign ministers of Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt reached such a decision in talks with PLO officials last week.

Mr. Kaddoumi, passing through Paris from Amman on his way to Tunisia, stopped short of saying that stopping Jewish settlements was a formal condition for bilateral Arab-Israeli negotiations.

But Mr. Kaddoumi did say that the bilateral talks would begin "once they stop the colonies... otherwise, the arrogant and intransigent Shamir will have to assume the responsibility of impeding the peace process."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir heads the Jewish state's delegation to the talks. He has

said that Israel will not stop building Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

The conference rules laid out by the sponsors, the United States and the Soviet Union, foresee three days of multilateral talks in Madrid starting Wednesday, followed by bilateral talks between Israel and Arab delegations.

These include a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Under Israeli conditions for participating in the talks, the Palestinians are not PLO members, though they are indirectly taking instructions from the group.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat said that peace in the Middle East would only come when Israel reached an accord with the Palestinians.

In an interview broadcast on the Cable News Network television, Mr. Arafat said: "The crux of the whole issue in the Middle East is Palestinian rights."

"With whom are they (Israel) going to make peace... if not with the Palestinians? It's only the Palestinians (who) can make peace."

The PLO threat of a Palestinian walkout followed one by Israel which said it would leave the talks if the joint Jordanian-Palestinian team included Saeb Erekat who declared his delegation represented the PLO.

Mr. Erekat told reporters in Amman Saturday that he would take part in the talks.

"I will be sitting in the opening ceremonies and speeches and I will be sitting face to face with the Israelis, who have denied my existence for a long, long time."

A PLO official said he expected Washington to reopen its dialogue with the organisation now the Middle East peace process was under way.

"I think resume they must because it really is a weakness on the American side not to be in full relations with all the parties," said Nabil Shaath, political adviser to Mr. Arafat.

"I expect it will do so very soon," he told the Viasat television news agency late Saturday. Washington severed dialogue

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Bomb in Tel Aviv, fire in Jerusalem

Occupied Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A small bomb was detonated in a Tel Aviv apartment building Sunday, and a fire was set at a U.S. office in occupied Jerusalem. Both attacks apparently were linked to upcoming Arab-Israeli peace talks in Madrid.

An Islamic fundamentalist group also issued a veiled threat against the lives of two of the Palestinian delegates going to the peace conference starting Wednesday.

No injuries were reported in the two incidents Sunday morning.

In Jerusalem, the door of the American Cultural Centre library was burned and a slogan scribbled nearby in the name of the extremist Kach movement founded by slain New York-born rabbi Meir Kahane, police said.

The slogan said "America is the enemy," according to Israel Radio.

Rabbi Kahane's son Benjamin, the head of a Kach breakaway faction, threatened last week to "blow up" the Madrid meeting.

Police later detained Benjamin Kahane and activist Mike Gvozovsky for questioning about an illegal sit-in Saturday night by several hundred followers who blocked a highway.

Police said they would likely be released later in the day on bail.

The explosion in the south Tel Aviv neighbourhood of Kiryat Shalom, Hebrew for "Peace Centre," was set off about 9:00 a.m. (0700 GMT), said a police statement.

It said the device was planted in a closet for electricity meters on the second floor and damaged two nearby apartments. Army radio described the explosive as a pipe bomb.

Police announced they detained 17 Palestinians near the scene as suspects and said "a terrorist motive" was apparently behind the attack. Officials said they suspected a link to the Madrid talks.

In the West Bank city of Hebron, the Muslim fundamentalist faction Hamas issued a leaflet threatening two Hebron Palestinians chosen to go to the Madrid talks.



Demonstrators rally in support of the Madrid Peace conference in Tel Aviv Saturday.

Israel maintains hard line

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli leaders vowed Sunday not to give up occupied Arab territories at the Middle East peace conference in Madrid.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said that only last-minute "interference" by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) at the peace talks could derail the meeting in Madrid.

In an interview, Mr. Shamir told Cable News Network (CNN) that he was aware that a member of the Palestinian-Jordanian delegation had told reporters last week that he represented the PLO.

Israel has refused to meet with members of the PLO or its representatives.

Mr. Shamir said U.S. diplomats were aware of the declaration made by Saeb Erekat, a 36-year-old associate professor of political science at Al Najah university and an editor at the Arabic daily Al Quds in Jerusalem.

Mr. Erekat's participation in the Madrid talks "is against the agreement he have with the United States... we are not going to negotiate with the PLO."

Reviewing last-minute dangers to the talks scheduled to begin on Wednesday, Mr. Shamir said: "Violence, violent acts are always not helpful."

"I don't see any events, any events, any circumstances that could (derail the talks) except this situation with the PLO which I have described before," Mr. Shamir said.

"I cannot see any circumstances that will bring us to interrupt the negotiations."

Later Sunday, the leader of the Palestine delegation, Dr. Haider Abdul Shafi, told ABC Television:

"We are not officials of the PLO, but there is an overwhelming support for the PLO as a legitimate leadership for the Palestinian people," he said.

Is Israel "refusing to talk to officials of PLO or are they refusing to talk to all Palestinian people?" Dr. Abdul Shafi asked.

"I think Israel, must explain its position. Either they want to talk to Palestinians or they don't want to talk to Palestinians."

Defence Minister Moshe Arens said Israel's hardline government would not bow to pressure in Madrid.

Some 30,000 Israelis urged territorial compromise at a Saturday night protest (see page 2). Mr. Arens called the demonstration "unnecessary."

Israel's 20-member cabinet met Sunday to map out strategy ahead of the peace conference called by the United States and the Soviet Union.

Mr. Shamir, 76, will lead Israel's team to the conference which is meant to foster first-ever face-to-face talks with both Palestinians and Arab states.

Mr. Arens told Israel radio the Jewish state's conditions for attending the peace talks were "unequivocally set," with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker —

no PLO, no resident of Arab East Jerusalem, and no Palestinians from abroad.

"We are not talking here about withdrawal and there is no need to prepare contingency plans for withdrawal," Mr. Arens said. "It is not our intention in going to this conference and negotiations to have pressure on us."

The protest aside, Israeli pollster Hanco Smith said his September survey found the broad public still had reservations.

"As a principle, with no qualifications, just in terms of the concept, 52 per cent said yes (to ceding territory), but with any kind of detail the story is quite different," Mr. Smith told Reuters Sunday.

He said for example that 54 per cent of those polled were against giving up any part of the Golan Heights.

But he said polls over the last two years showed Israelis might at some later stage accept the idea.

In 1989, a full 95 per cent of those polled opposed handing over any part of the Heights. In August this year, 57 per cent remained against before the September drop to 54 per cent.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad said Saturday the chances for a lasting Middle East peace were up to Israel.

"It all depends, on a great extent, on the intentions of the

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Baker: U.S. following law on Israeli missile exports

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker insisted Sunday that the U.S. administration had not violated the law by failing to sanction Israel for exporting key ballistic missile components to South Africa.

"Let me assure you that we are following the law very, very specifically in this matter," Mr. Baker said in an ABC television interview.

The Washington Post, quoting unidentified administration and diplomatic officials, said in its Sunday editions that U.S. intelligence agencies learned that an Israeli government-affiliated company shipped missile components to a South African company during the past year.

U.S. law requires the administration to take action against foreign firms or countries known to have violated a 1987 convention to stem missile proliferation in the Third World.

But the newspaper said President George Bush waived sanctions against Israel, in part, because of concern that pushing Israel would undermine its position at the Middle East peace conference opening in Madrid on Wednesday and could further aggravate U.S.-Israeli relations.

Mr. Baker declined to comment specifically on whether the United States knew that Israel had shipped missile components to South Africa, but acknowledged that U.S. officials have discussed missile exports with Israel.

"We have been very careful to follow the law, and we have been working with Israel and other states on matters involving the export of missile technology," he said, adding, "we're going to continue to work with them."

The Post quoted unidentified Israeli sources as saying the

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Israel stops 3 Palestinians from attending peace talks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel barred three Palestinians convicted of "security" offences from leaving Sunday to attend the Middle East peace talks as advisers.

Ziad Abu Ayn told Reuters he and two other residents of the occupied territories were informed by U.S. diplomats that Israel had denied them permission to go to Madrid.

"I am one of the people of the 1985 prisoner exchange. They told the American consul that they refused to allow me to leave the country to be part of the Palestinian delegation because I would be dangerous there," Mr. Ayn said.

"The Israeli government looks like it is not serious about the peace," he said.

Israel also stopped two other former security prisoners, Ahmad Shreim from Kalkiya and Fathi Al Haj from Khan Younis in the occupied Gaza Strip, going to Madrid.

Mr. Ayn, 31, is the most prominent former prisoner of the three. He spent two and a half years in a U.S. jail until the U.S. supreme court ordered his extradition to Israel in 1981 to stand trial for a bomb attack in Tiberias in 1979.

He was convicted and given a life sentence. He was freed in a 1985 prisoner exchange between Israel and a Palestinian faction. Later that year he was rearrested and served three more years in jail.

He now manages an aluminium factory.

Israel allowed other Palestinians who were convicted of "security" offences to go to Madrid for the Arab-Israeli talks

starting Wednesday. But security sources said the three barred from leaving had been convicted of "more serious" crimes.

Israel had demanded right of veto as Palestinian negotiators to the talks to ensure that none was a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation or from Arab East Jerusalem.

Six other Palestinian activists left on Sunday for Jordan on their way to Madrid where they will have a role as advisers.

They were:

— Mr. Ahmad Dahalan of Khan Younis.

— Jamal Nasser of Gaza City.

— Sadi Abu Abed, of Gaza City.

— Awni Al Shawaa, a merchant from Gaza City.

— Mohammed Al Hiti from Askar refugee camp in the occupied West Bank, a representative of refugees.

— Mohammad Al Aroui of Ramallah in the West Bank.

Seven Palestinian journalists attached to the Palestinian delegation also left with the group Sunday.

Egypt, Sunday announced its observer delegation to the conference in Madrid.

The 14-member team will be led by Foreign Minister Amr Musa, 54, a career diplomat and veteran of Islamic and Arab wars. He headed Egypt's U.N. mission when appointed foreign minister in May.

The other members are: — Ala Barakat, Egypt's ambassador to Madrid and a former airforce chief.

— Mahmoud Abu Al Nour, former deputy foreign minister, and former ambassador to Madrid.

— Dr. Rami Al Shahr, president of Zagazig University and specialist in international law.

— Dr. Yusef Labib Risk, professor of modern history.

Turkey continuing strikes in Iraq; Kurds outraged

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkey bombed northern Iraq for the third day on Sunday, continuing its avowed campaign to wipe out Turkish Kurdish rebel bases. Iraqi Kurds said two civilians were killed and threatened to retaliate.

The semi-official Anatolia news agency, quoting military officials, said Turkish Air Force F-104 Starfighter jets resumed bombing early Sunday.

It said Turkish ground troops were about five kilometres inside Iraq. Local officials said their advance was slowed by mines planted by Turkish Kurdish rebels. They said helicopters landed some elite troops.

Turkey's third military incursion into Iraq in three months was launched Friday after guerrillas of the illegal Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) attacked army border outposts, killing at least 17 soldiers and wounding 40. Three soldiers were missing.

The PKK has been fighting since 1984 for a Kurdish state in southeastern Turkey, home to about half the country's 12 million Kurds. Turkey charges the PKK has established bases in northern Iraq, which is under Iraqi Kurdish rebel control. Turkey also suspects the PKK may have gotten some heavy weapons from Iraq, although it says it lacks proof.

A spokesman for a leading Iraqi Kurdish group said Sunday the Turkish military was lying when it insisted there were no civilian casualties. The Iraqi Kurds are not affiliated with the

PKK, although they maintain contacts.

Siamand Banaa, Ankara representative of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), said that Turkish planes had bombed the civilian settlements of Barzan, Bille, Rezan and Perive on Saturday.

A second wave of planes hit Chami Jew, Be Perika and Rizga villages near Amadiyah, he said. Two civilians were killed and many were injured, Mr. Banaa said.

Serchil Kazaz of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), another major Iraqi Kurdish group, said he knew of no casualties Saturday.

Earlier this month, the Turkish air force attacked civilian settlements in northern Iraq during an operation against the PKK, killing at least three civilians and wounding dozens, according to local doctors and witnesses.

Although the Turkish military denied attacking civilians, Western reporters saw bombed houses and pieces of U.S.-made napalm canisters in the villages after those attacks.

Western relief workers have expressed concern that the Turkish raids will impede resettlement of Iraqi Kurdish refugees who had fled after their rebellion was crushed by Iraqi forces last spring.

Mr. Banaa said the KDP leadership had decided that "anybody who attacks our women and children will be fired on in self-defence."

He said the KDP also decided to withdraw him from Turkey, one month after he and Mr. Kazaz arrived to promote ties Turkey.

"Thirdly, the KDP decided to cancel all anti-PKK activities in northern Iraq," declared Mr. Banaa.

PUK leader Jalal Talabani said in Ankara he hoped to have talks with Turkish President Turgut Ozal, the Anatolia news agency reported Sunday.

"We hope the new government to be formed in Turkey will continue to improve relations with Iraqi Kurdistan and support Iraqi Kurds' struggle for democracy and human rights," Mr. Talabani said, commenting on last Sunday's Turkish general elections.

A Kurdish official said on Friday that Iraqi Kurdish guerrilla groups would meet next week to try to decide whether to sign a draft autonomy accord with the Iraqi government.

Hoshyar Zebari, a senior KDP member said, the Kurdistan Front, grouping eight Kurdish parties including Mr. Talabani's, would gather in rebel-held territory to hear the report of a delegation sent to test Western support for the Kurds.

Iraqi Kurds are split over the draft autonomy accord brought back from Baghdad in August by KDP leader Massoud Barzani after four months of negotiations.

Differences between the KDP and the PUK scuppered earlier attempts to reach a decision on whether to sign.



Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat (right), Israeli trade union leader Yitzhak Ben Aharon and Herzliya Mayor Eli Landau demonstrate for peace activist Abbie Nathan's release from jail while Likud legislator Tzahi Hanegbi (left) takes an opposite view

30,000 Israelis demonstrate in support of peace

TEL AVIV (R) — About 30,000 Israelis demonstrated for peace and territorial compromise in Tel Aviv Saturday night, urging Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to take an olive branch with him to the Middle East conference in Madrid.

One of his staunchest opponents wished Mr. Shamir success at the Arab-Israeli talks, sponsored by Washington and Moscow, that are scheduled to open Wednesday.

"Take an olive branch and outstretch a hand to peace with a recognition of your fellow man's right to freedom and security," said Shulamit Aloni, leader of the opposition Citizens Rights Movement party in parliament.

"Carry with you our prayers that your path will succeed and you will bring a future of peace for us, our children and our neighbours and all the residents of the region," Ms. Aloni said to thunderous applause.

Demonstrators raised banners saying "Israel wants peace" and "Don't miss the opportunity for Peace."

She said Israelis did not want to die fighting Palestinians who have

been protesting against Israeli rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for nearly four years.

A coalition of left-wing and peace groups organised the demonstration which called on the government to trade land for peace and freeze Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

Israel's right-wing government has opposed ceding even an inch of the Arab land it captured in the 1967 war.

Organisers and photographers at the rally said about 30,000 people attended.

Ms. Aloni also called on President Chaim Herzog to pardon peace activist Abbie Nathan, now serving his second prison term for meeting Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat. Israeli law forbids contacts with the PLO.

Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat, a member of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc, also demanded the release of Mr. Nathan.

But Mr. Lahat said Israeli leaders were fooling themselves, and that there is no way around talk-

ing to PLO representatives.

At this week's Madrid peace conference, "the Israeli government, the prime minister, are going to meet with people who, in fact represent the PLO," Mr. Lahat said on Israel Radio.

Israel has accepted the Palestinian delegation to the talks on the basis that it not openly identify with the PLO, but has never spelled out what that would entail.

Last week, Shamir spokesman Yossi Alhineir said Israel would consider pulling out of the talks if Palestinian delegate Saad Erafat, who has said the delegation "was chosen by the PLO," was allowed to participate.

"We have to free Abbie Nathan, to annul this law and stop fooling ourselves," Mr. Lahat said.

Mr. Nathan began serving an 18-month sentence earlier this month. He was jailed for four months earlier for meeting PLO officials.

On Friday, Mr. Lahat and another Likud member, Herzliya Mayor Eli Landau, demonstrated in front of the prison where Mr. Nathan is held.

Gulf foreign ministers lining up stance for Madrid

RIYADH (R) — The foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and its Gulf Arab partners, influential behind-the-scenes players in Middle East peacemaking, began meeting Sunday to home a formula for the Madrid conference.

The members of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), along with its Secretary-General Abdullah Bishara, have affirmed their keenness to see an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"The GCC is a reservoir of goodwill and reason," Mr. Bishara told Jeddah's English-language Arab News on the eve of the conference.

But Israel had to vacate the occupied land and meet the Palestinian demands, he said, adding there can be "no peace with greed and expansionism."

The Saudi monarch, King Fahd, was instrumental in having the oil-rich region drop its animosity towards Israel when he agreed with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in May to draw the alliance into the peace-making process.

The council groups Saudi Arabia with Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait.

The alliance will be represented by Mr. Bishara as observer at the two-way opening stage of the conference.

But it is also gearing up to enter into talks with Israel on such regional issues as demilitarisation, water supplies and regional security within two weeks if an interim second stage sees progress in bilateral negotiations between the Jewish state and the Palestinians, Jordanians and Syrians.

This was the premise already agreed upon last week in Damascus by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal with the Arab parties involved. GCC officials pointed out.

"Saudi Arabia is still planning

to attend the multilateral talks and the other GCC members will fall into line. It is likely all six states will participate in at least one session," one senior Riyadh-based diplomat said.

Gulf-based officials said the Riyadh meeting was likely to be brief.

"The discussions will be general so that the positions of GCC member states will be the same," the Oman News Agency quoted Youssef Al Alawi, minister of state for foreign affairs, as saying in Muscat before his departure.

Mr. Bishara told Reuters last week he would attend the opening session of the Madrid conference as an observer but details of further GCC participation had not yet been worked out.

Diplomats said the six states were unlikely to send representatives with Mr. Bishara to the opening session of the conference and will not attend bilateral talks between Israel and front-line Arab states due to begin four days later.

Prince Saud will continue to act as the liaison man with the front-line Arab parties for the duration of the conference, said the officials, who spoke on condition they not be named.

The council states also have been at pains to point out that their backing for the Palestinians does not mean, even if they are bitter at the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the Jordanians for having sympathised with Iraq in the recent Gulf crisis.

The wealth of the oil-rich Arab states allows them to act as mentors of the front-line parties at the Madrid conference.

For the Saudis and the rest of the Muslim World, the thorny issue of East Jerusalem is of paramount importance because it is the home of the third holiest Muslim shrine. But the issue has not yet become a focus in the pre-conference deliberations.

Kurdish separatists claim broadening popular support

By Rasit Gurdilek
The Associated Press

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey — In the newspapers, the courtyards and the voting booths of Turkey's southeast, signs of support are increasing among Turkey's minority Kurds for rebels who have vowed to create a separate homeland.

The rebels have grown increasingly bold in recent months, with attacks on Turkish military posts and provincial centres. Some reports have said the rebels are getting support from Iraq — which is angry over Turkey's support for the U.S.-led coalition in the Gulf war — despite its suppression of Iraqi rebellion in Iraq this spring.

In an attempt to hit rebel sanctuaries in neighbouring Iraq, the Turkish military has launched three cross-border raids since August — the most recent an air and ground assault Friday.

Turkey's Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) has been fighting for nearly eight years to create a state in southeastern Turkey. The area is home to about half the 12 million Kurds, who make up one-fifth of the country's population.

"We want peace, but as long as the (Turkish) state persists in violence, the Kurdish nation has a right to every form of struggle," declared Hattip Dicle, a human-rights activist who was recently elected to parliament.

Turkey asserts that in recent months, the rebels have been taking advantage of a

power vacuum in northern Iraq, which developed when Iraqi Kurds took control of the area last spring during a U.S.-led relief operation.

The Iraqi Kurds say they don't support the rebellious Turkish Kurds, although they maintain contacts.

Foreign Ministry officials say privately that Kurdish nationalism appears to have been fired by the world's focus last spring on the plight of the Iraqi Kurds following their failed rebellion.

The new assertiveness of Kurdish nationalists was obvious in the Oct. 20 Turkish general elections.

An unprecedented 22 deputies espousing Kurdish rights were elected to parliament, 13 more than in the previous elections. They ran on the ticket of the centre-left Social Democrat Populist Party.

In this major southeastern city, people say they voted for the candidates on "the word from the mountains" — the guerrillas.

The rebels also have some media backing. Yeni Ulke (New Country), a weekly newspaper with a reported circulation of 30,000, openly supports the rebels.

Demands for more Kurdish rights frighten the Turkish government and military. President Turgut Ozal this year lifted a ban on the use of the Kurdish language in unofficial settings. But the government, trying to discourage secessionists, continues to ban education in Kurdish and publication of Kurdish books.

The government has 12,500 police commands

battling Kurdish separatists in southeastern Turkey, in addition to an estimated 60,000 troops in the area. But the brunt of the anti-guerrilla effort falls on government-armed village guards who are paid about \$900 a month, a high salary in this impoverished region.

Even though the guards and their families are targeted by the guerrillas, the pay has helped the government recruit 30,000 guards.

Officials say the standard weapons of the rebels are AK-47 assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades.

Foreign Minister Safa Geylan says he suspects heavy weapons the rebels reportedly also possess may have come from Iraq, although he says he lacks proof. Iraqi Kurds say the Iraqi government turned over such weapons to the rebels right after the Gulf war, but assert no further deliveries have been made.

In some areas of southeast Turkey, the guerrillas control the night.

After the sun sets on Cizre, a market town of 250 kilometres east of Diyarbakir, government soldiers troops withdraw to their barracks, leaving the town to guerrillas in jumpsuits with baggy trousers.

In a packed courtyard one recent evening, several rebels debated politics with locals.

A man claiming to speak for the rebels tied the increase in their support to the rising national consciousness of the Kurds and Turkey's "obstinate denial of a Kurdish entity."

Iran says Dumas to visit to sign accord

NICOSIA (R) — French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas will visit Tehran within a month to sign an accord reached in Paris setting a 12-year financial dispute, Iranian television reported Saturday.

The dispute, which strained relations between the two countries, stemmed from a \$1 billion loan the Shah of Iran made to the French Atomic Energy Commission in 1974.

Mr. Dumas said Friday the negotiators had completed their task and the accord would be initiated after being "gone over with a fine tooth comb."

Iranian Television, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), said the final articles of the accord, reached after two years of negotiations, were agreed in a final round of talks in the French capital on Friday night.

"According to the agreement reached, France is to pay Iran the equivalent of \$1 billion for the remaining part of Iran's loan to France's atomic consortium and for our country's other claims," it said, according to the BBC.

"In addition, all the two countries' files on financial claims against each other in international courts and organisations will be regarded as void."

In exchange for the late Shah's loan, Iran became a minority shareholder in the European nuclear consortium Eurodif, which was supposed to supply fuel for a power plant the late Shah wanted to build. Iran would then have

had automatic access to enriched uranium produced in France.

Asked whether France had acceded to Tehran's request for uranium, which reportedly held up bilateral negotiations in July, a French foreign ministry spokesman said on Friday: "The (uranium) issue has been settled to both sides' satisfaction."

"The terms of this agreement are confidential," he added.

Iranian Television quoted Tehran's chief negotiator, Mahmoud Vaezi, as saying the main obstacle to an improvement in relations between the two countries had been removed.

Mr. Vaezi, deputy foreign minister for European and American affairs, spoke after a Friday night session with Francois Scherer, secretary general of the French foreign ministry.

"The way has been paved for the successful conclusion of major contracts with French companies, including the \$1.2 billion petrochemical project between Iran and France," Mr. Vaezi was quoted as saying.

Mr. Vaezi said Iran would continue to be a minority shareholder in Eurodif and the question of its arrears in payments to the consortium was one of the disputes that had been resolved.

Enriched uranium is both an energy source and a key component in the manufacture of nuclear weapons.

With the example of Iraq's nuclear programme in mind, Paris is under pressure not to

contribute to "possible build-up of nuclear weapons in the Middle East. A ministry spokesman said there had never been any uranium deliveries to Iran."

Until the murder of former Iranian Prime Minister Shapour Bakhtiar in Paris this August, raising suspicions about the Iranian regime's role, the Eurodif dispute was the last obstacle preventing normal ties between the two nations.

The nuclear plant project was cancelled after the Shah was toppled in the 1979 revolution.

France repaid \$630 million by 1988. In addition to the balance, Iran claimed another \$1 billion interest.

Paris in turn claimed a similar sum to compensate for other contracts cancelled after 1979. Earlier this month a Swiss court ordered Iran to pay 4.06 billion francs (\$700 million) in damages to three French firms.

France severed diplomatic relations with Tehran in 1987 over an Iranian embassy official's suspected implication in a wave of Middle East bombing attacks that swept Paris the year before.

Ties were reestablished in 1988 after the last French hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon were freed.

But relations were strained anew when a French judge issued an arrest warrant this week against an Iranian government official suspected of involvement in Mr. Bakhtiar's murder.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Le Roi d'astrophysique
18:30 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sports Magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Hey Dad
21:10 The Midas Touch
22:00 News in English
22:30 Gabriels Fire

PRAYER TIMES

06:26 Fajr
06:44 (Sharia) Dhuhr
11:19 Duhr
14:26 Asr
16:55 Maghreb
18:12 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifich Tel. 810740
Assumption of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terzian Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623411

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 683326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./max. temp. Amman 12 / 23 Jordan 20 / 29 Dead Sea 12 / 25 Jordan Valley 20 / 30

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 22, Aqaba 28. Humidity readings: Amman 61 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Issam Al Amour 890594
Dr. Wael Kharrabi 669917
Dr. Walid Sabarwal 779997
Dr. Abdul Aziz Taboun 787078
Firm pharmacy 601912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nabrook pharmacy 623672
Al Saleh pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Stamand pharmacy 637660

IRBID:

Dr. Sakir Al Mincor (—)
Al Shams pharmacy 273825

ZARQA:

Dr. Khawla Al Jashar (—)
Khalid pharmacy 983417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 775121
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 623300
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdullah Telephone Regimen 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 660100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Abdullah Maternity, J. Amn. 644412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mallat, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 697114
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musader Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 665127/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777013
Al-Basir, J. Ashrafiah 775112/6
Army, Marja 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 622405/0
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900590
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00 Samra (RJ)
06:00 Damascus (RJ)
06:15 Riyadh (RJ)
06:15 Jeddah (RJ)
06:30 Doha (RJ)
06:40 LAMICA (RJ)

Other Carriers (Terminal 2)

12:30 Cairo (MS)
13:00 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GP)
14:00 Paris (AF)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:15 Beirut (RJ)
11:50 Montreal New York (RJ)
11:50 Istanbul (RJ)
12:15 London (RJ)
12:45 Frankfurt (RJ)
13:00 Cairo (RJ)
13:30 Yerevan (RJ)
14:30 Moscow (RJ)
14:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
14:30 Sams (RJ)
14:30 Moscow (RJ)
14:30 Doha (RJ)
14:30 Moscow (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:30 Cairo (MS)
13:00 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GP)
14:00 Paris (AF)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower prices in Jds per kg.

Apple 200 / 400
Banana 300 / 450
Banana (Makassar) 300 / 500
Banana 300 / 500
Cabbage 170 / 100
Cauliflower 240 / 200
Cucumber (large) 150 / 100
Cucumber (small) 350 / 300
Eggplant 300 / 180
Garlic 800 / 750
Grapes 900 / 600
Grama 400 / 350
Lentils 200 / 150
Marrow (large) 150 / 100
Marrow (small) 320 / 250
Onion 850 / 750
Onion (dry) 180 / 120
Pepper (hot) 260 / 200
Pepper (sweet) 400 / 300
Potato 300 / 250
Spinach 620 / 520
Squash 220 / 200
Sweet melon 260 / 200
Tomatoes 350 / 300
Watermelon 140 / 100

Majali thanks King, promises to protect Jordanian interests at peace parley

AMMAN (J.T.) — The head of the Jordanian side to the bilateral talks with Israel, Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali, Sunday sent a message to His Majesty King Hussein pledging to exert all his efforts to serve the cause of peace to safeguard Jordan's national interests.

The message, in reply to one the King sent to Dr. Majali Saturday appointing him head of the delegation, said that the Jordanian team would do all in its power with the King's guidance to bring about peace based on justice.

"I received with a great deal of pride your Royal message

full of wise directives expressing Your Majesty's confidence in me and my team, who you chose for a noble goal," said Dr. Majali in his reply cable.

"By duly accepting your designation to head the Jordanian negotiating team at the peace conference, I do emphasize to Your Majesty that my colleagues and myself will serve as your faithful soldiers, fully realising the seriousness of our mission for the region's peace and the goals we have to address ourselves in order to safeguard Jordan's interests and future," Dr. Majali continued.

timed.

At the same time, he said, the Jordanian-Palestinian team will be working in unison for the sake of safeguarding the Palestinian people's interests and restoring their legitimate Arab rights through a durable and lasting peace.

In his message to Dr. Majali, King Hussein said that he was confident that he had selected for this mission one of the country's ablest men assisted by an elite of Jordanian citizens to bolster the nation's strength and protect its interests.



Saleh Irshaidat

Jordan, China to cooperate in sports, youth affairs

AMMAN (J.T.) — China's Ambassador to Jordan Zhang Liang and Minister of Youth Saleh Irshaidat Sunday discussed ways to promote their countries' cooperation in sports and youth affairs.

Discussion also covered the prospect of signing a protocol on youth and sports affairs under which visits by sports and youth teams can be exchanged, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The ambassador and the minister discussed prospects for China to provide the Al Hassan Sports City in Irbid with experts to carry out maintenance, to supervise operations and to bring in an expert in planting grass to create lawns at various sports complexes.

China built the sports city of Irbid — which includes a gymnasium seating 2,000 people, an Olympic stadium accommodating 15,000 spectators, a sports training hall, swimming pools as well as other facilities — and handed it over to Jordan in August of last year.

Work on the sports city started in 1987 after China pledged to supply almost half the cost of the project, which, according to Petra, amounted to JD 10 million.

The minister and the ambassador set up a joint committee to discuss terms of the projected protocol to be signed later by the concerned parties in the two countries.

Germany to provide Jordan with technical assistance

AMMAN (Petra) — Germany is to grant Jordan technical assistance to help promote hospital services in the country in accordance with a memorandum signed by the two sides in Amman Sunday.

The memorandum, signed at the Ministry of Planning, calls for Germany to offer training for technicians employed by the Royal Medical Services at various hospitals in the country under the German technical assistance programme to Jordan.

According to a statement, the project aims at boosting the efficiency of medical services offered through government-run health institutions in Jordan. The Germans will provide experts for technical training in hospitals and some equipment needed for such training at an estimated cost of DM 2.5 million.

Minister of Planning Ziyad Faris and German ambassador to Jordan Dr. Heinrich Reimers signed the memorandum in the presence of officials from the German embassy and the Ministry of Planning. Following the signing ceremony, the German ambassador expressed his delight over the memorandum which, he said, aims at promoting health cooperation between Jordan and his country. The memorandum, he added, represents a step towards such cooperation.

Water minister calls for new legislation to deal with Jordan's dwindling water resources

AMMAN (J.T.) — The University of Jordan Sunday opened a two-day symposium on Jordan's water resources and their future potentials focusing attention on the country's water requirements for domestic use, irrigation and industry.

Minister of Water and Irrigation Samir Kassar, who opened the sessions, called for new legislation to be enacted to cope with the Kingdom's growing needs of water for the present and the future. He also said that water is of paramount importance for the implementation of social and economic projects.

Water assumes one of the main priorities for the Kingdom because it is closely linked to the country's economic and social plans; and despite the achievements in the water fields, the country has a long way to go to overcome the water shortage crisis, the minister said.

Increasing water demand, the fluctuation in the amounts of rainfall and the growing industrial and irrigation sectors require a great deal of water which the country's present resources cannot meet, the minister said. For this reason, Jordan is now cooperating with a number of international institutions in working out a national water strategy

aimed at providing sufficient water for domestic, industrial and agricultural uses, Mr. Kassar said.

The strategy is expected to take into account long-term policies that would deal with water crises in the future and would define priorities for water use, the minister added. At present, the ministry is also working on short and medium term policies to take care of water distribution and to control the utilisation of available water resources, the minister said.

But, the minister noted, no national strategy can be successful if it is planned separately from regional considerations.

Since Jordan lies at the heart of the Arab orient, the country should coordinate and cooperate with the countries of the region in order to implement water strategies and achieve the aspired goals, the minister said.

The organisers of the symposium are the University of Jordan Water Research and Study Centre, the Higher Council for Science and Technology and the Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung.

A statement issued by the organisers on the eve of the symposium said that although water was the most abundant among natural resources, Jordan seems to be



Participants Sunday listen to speakers addressing problems and solutions to Jordan's water problems at the University of Jordan (Petra photo)

among the least blessed areas. This natural scarcity is aggravated by alarming population growth rates, the degradation of the available resources and the increasing demand due to higher standards of living, industrialisation and irrigation, the statement said.

Jordan is at present using or overusing all its annual renewable fresh water resources and, therefore, rationing of domestic consumption, reducing allocations to agriculture and damage to vulnerable ground water resources are becoming more common, the statement said.

The statement said that the

present fragile situation was further aggravated by the fact that a good portion of Jordan's water resources flows as international water in the Yarmouk and Jordan rivers, in addition to the jointly-owned groundwater resources with neighbouring countries.

The statement said the symposium at the University of Jordan will discuss the above issues to clarify the present situation and to set recommendations for future actions concerning the scarce precious water resources of the Kingdom. Water experts from Jordan and other countries are taking part in the discussions.

Joint Jordanian-French committee signs agreement on bilateral cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Joint Jordanian-French Committee on Sciences and Technology concluded a meeting in Amman Sunday by signing a new agreement on bilateral cooperation in scientific and cultural fields.

Cooperation in scientific, archaeological and cultural fields as well as matters related to radio and television are among matters covered under the agreement, which was signed by Ministry of Planning Secretary General Safwan Touqan and French Ambassador to Jordan Denis Bauchard.

French embassy officials said that the two sides reviewed general outlines for cooperation over the next three years in a host of fields. Topics for discussion, the officials said, included agriculture, medicine, judicial, science, water, telecommunications, tourism, geothermy, oceanology, cartography, archaeology, teaching of French in Jordanian schools and universities, music, artistic cooperation, radio and television.

Following the signing of the agreement at the Ministry of Planning, Ambassador Bauchard expressed hope that the two sides will continue to increase cooperation, specifically in the fields of archaeology, agriculture, and television.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, cooperation in these fields will be conducted through Jordanian and French universities.

French-Jordanian cooperation, mainly in cultural, scientific and technical fields.

These, they said, cover a vast range of topics of interest to both sides.

Following the conclusion of the 1965 agreement, the committee held joint meetings in Amman and Paris alternately every three years to review progress of joint cooperation.

The Amman meeting was the ninth of its kind, grouping teams of experts from France and Jordan.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, flanked by government officials, Sunday addresses a conference on role of Arab women (Petra photo)

Seminar on improving and increasing Arab women's role opens

By Maha Adhisi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The regional office for Education in the Arab States (UNEDBAS), in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), started a seminar Sunday with the aim of improving the status of the Arab women and incorporating her role in education, officials said.

In the opening ceremony of the five-day seminar entitled "Population Education and the Arab Woman" taking place at the Philadelphia Hotel, UNESCO representative Salah Yacoub said that the seminar is part of the regional programme for population education that UNESCO is preparing. He added that it is being funded by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA).

"The programme aims to emphasise population education and its role in developing the status and involvement of the Arab woman nationally and regionally in this field," Dr. Yacoub said, adding that the programme is part of a regional

paper on this topic.

"This seminar is also the regional contribution by 34 participants representing 14 Arab countries for the upcoming international conference on population education that will be held by UNESCO in cooperation with UNFPA in 1992," Dr. Yacoub said.

Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, under whose patronage the seminar was inaugurated, said that although interest in population education arose only recently, Jordan realised early on the importance of the population elements in the development process.

"Jordan ought and is still seeking to crystallise a population policy which would achieve balance between the population on the one hand and resources, environment and the development process on the other," Princess Basma said.

She added that Jordan has been very interested in the experiences of other countries and the efforts of international organisations in this regard. "Jordan hosted three important meetings which are: The Arab population conference in 1984, a meeting by

the UNESCO regional education bureau in 1987 and the regional consultative meeting on population education and development in the Arab World in 1990. The three meetings issued (the Amman Declaration on Population in the Arab World) and (the Amman Declaration on Population Education and Development in the Arab World) in addition to a host of recommendations which stressed the need to add the population and family education subject to school and teachers colleges curricula," Princess Basma said.

Princess Basma also highlighted the importance of women's role in society. "Increasing the contribution of women to the advancement of her society means activating half the society's powers and shaking them serve it and play basic roles in it which would result in many factors that might push the wheel of progress forward or impede its development and progress," she said.

The consultant for the seminar, Dr. Mariam Salim from the University of Lebanon, said that the media has unfortunately shown the Arab woman in a distorted way.

"The Arab woman has not been shown like she actually is, but less. This seminar aims at showing what the Arab woman is really like and increase her role in development and education. The seminar also aims to improve the status of life for people. The papers to be presented cover a wide range of subjects related to women in relation with communication, education, self-concept of the Arab woman, determinants and strategies for change," Dr. Salim said.

The participating countries in this seminar include Syria, Morocco, Egypt, Sudan, Algeria, Yemen, Palestine, Kuwait, Libya, Tunisia, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain as well as Jordan.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Sina Ata at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Jordanian artists Ghassan Abu Lahana, Hadil Basmam, Abir Abu Judeh and Samia Hindi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of water colour paintings by Australian artist Jennifer Bowker at Alfa Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "The Blue Rider", organised by the Goethe Institute in cooperation with the University of Jordan, at the university's Architectural Engineering Department.
- ★ A special season of antique lithographs, engravings, folio-illustrations and maps, 18th & 19th century prints of Palestine, Jordan — the Mideast as well as orientalist scenes at the Gallery, Hotel Jordan Inter. Continental.

FILM

- ★ French film entitled "Que La Bete Meure" at the French Cultural Centre — 8 p.m.

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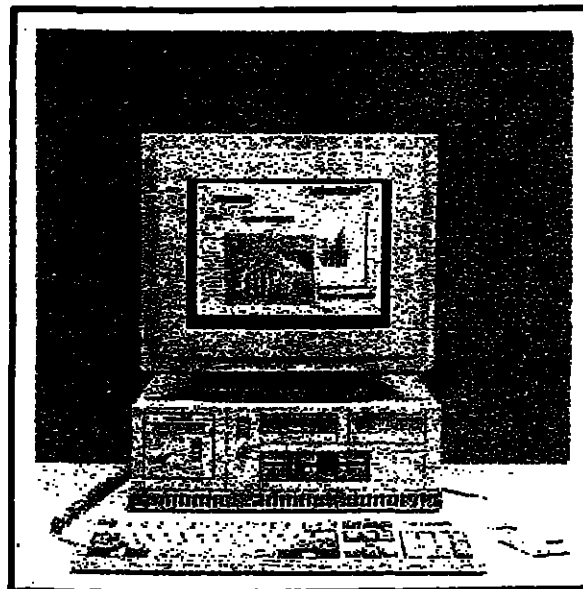
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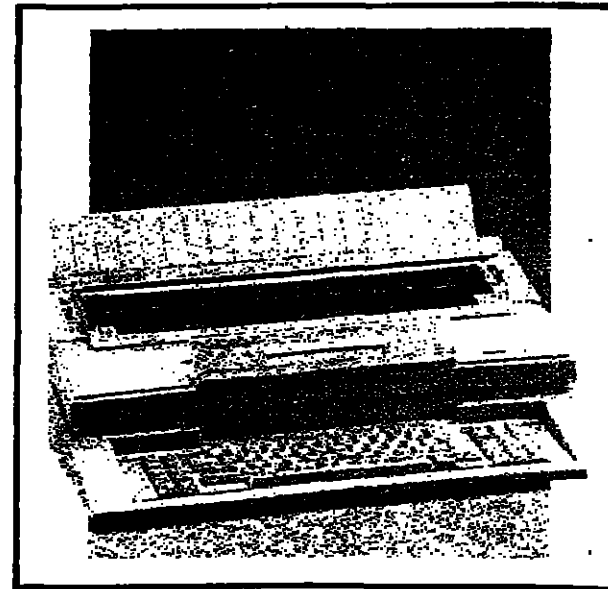
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GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

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Weekly Political Pulse

Modernity versus defeatism

By Waleed Sadi

IT is sheer defeatism to state that the Arab countries are going to the peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflicts because they have no other choice. I would like to think that in fact the Jordanian, Syrian and Palestinian delegations are proceeding to the peace parley with Israel out of choice and out of conviction that they can and will extract an honourable peace terms from Tel Aviv.

To think otherwise is tantamount to viewing the peace negotiations as a forum to submit Arab surrender. That is why the Arab parties need not and must not feel so desperate as to have to submit to Israeli conditions for peace in an arbitrary way. There is no rule that postulates that going to peace talks must come to any fruition. If the contents of the peace formula that would ensue from the projected discussions are so abhorrent to the Arab point of view, then the Arab negotiating teams must be prepared to pack up their bags and return home.

The central issue therefore is whether the Arabs have another alternative to resort to should everything fail. It would be utterly folly to contend that the state of Arab affairs is so inferior and weak that they have no viable alternatives except to surrender at the negotiating table. In fact, any failure in the anticipated peace talks with Israel could serve as an impetus for serious actions by the Arab countries to rectify their situation and render their strategic power that much more effective and potent.

The Arab peoples have still many cards to play provided their leaderships are serious enough to face the Israeli challenge. One does not need to think in military terms only, but also in terms of state of the art technology, both intellectual and mechanical,

which can be introduced to the Arab World. When the Arab countries become modern in the full sense of the word, and their economics and political situations are advanced enough, then Israel and the rest of the world would begin to take them seriously and act accordingly. That means there is a great deal to be done in that vein, beginning with consolidating the democratic process in the Arab World, especially in the Middle East region, by setting in motion the full dynamics of modernisation throughout the area.

On the basis of the above propositions, there is no need for panic or stampede in the direction of peace at any cost. Honourable peace yes, but not surrender, which all future Arab generations have to live with, with disgust and dismay. No solution, therefore, is better than a compromise solution. This should be the logo for the Arab teams who are charged with pursuing the peace negotiations with Israel.

Meanwhile, every possible effort must be exerted to strengthen the hands of those who will negotiate on our behalf. That does not mean there shall be no room for disagreement among the people of Jordan or that opposition may not rise in the midst of the negotiations; rather it is an appeal for common sense and the maintenance of a reasonable balance between the various views on the subject of peace. Terrorism, for example, as a mode of expression, cannot be condoned at all. By the same analogy, any unreasonable style of manifesting a conflicting point of view should also be ruled out. We have a living democracy in the country now and every method resorted to for that purpose must be consistent with that proposition.

The double talk of Mr. Baker

By Dr. Hanna Nasir

FEW days ago, Mr. Baker made it clear that the framework of the conference would be U.N. Resolution 242 and 338. However he also made it clear that the conflicting parties have their different interpretations of these resolutions and the negotiations are exactly to settle these differences. That is double talk at its best.

U.N. resolutions are clear and unambiguous. If parties of the conflict wish to misinterpret them — or wish to have their own interpretation, then that is their own business. But they cannot force such interpretations on the U.N. itself. If negotiations are going to be based on the interpretation of U.N. resolutions, then one might as well leave the resolutions aside and speak about negotiations without a U.N. framework. That of course has its serious pitfalls because it leaves the peace conference without a legal framework. If the negotiations are on the interpretations, then who is to judge what the correct interpretation is? It certainly cannot be the parties concerned. It has to be the U.N. itself.

As such Mr. Baker should have gotten the correct interpretation of the U.N. resolutions and then to ask the parties to negotiate within this framework. One might of course ask if negotiations are then actually needed. The answer is an affirmative yes. There are details to be negotiated. Period of time for implementation, security arrangements, future relations and things of that sort. But a U.N. resolution has to be implemented or at least accepted within the interpretation of the

U.N. itself rather than the conflicting parties. Fortunately the U.N. does not have to go to great lengths to make its interpretation of Resolution 242. It is loud and clear. It asks for the "withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict (1967)." Those — like Israel — who wish to give the resolution an aura of ambiguity refer to the fact that there is no article "the" before the word "territories" in the resolution and hence that does not mean withdrawal from all the occupied territories. If that was correct, then withdrawal from just one square inch would be a fulfilment of the resolution — and that just cannot be conceivable. Hence by logical deduction the resolution is further buttressed by the preamble of the resolution which speaks about the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by war. Hence there is absolutely no ambiguity in the U.N. resolution. It really means total withdrawal.

The U.N. is called upon now to enforce its own legal and absolutely unambiguous interpretation of the resolution. The parties should negotiate within this framework. Mr. Baker should give the U.N. its legitimate task to oversee the implementation of its own resolution according to its own interpretations. Without that, the achievement of peace will be in real jeopardy.

The writer is a former PLO Executive Committee member and the departed president of Bir Zeit University. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

Israel Vs. ultimate test

JEWISH HISTORY is long and complex, just as much it is unique and, in the words of Abba Eban, "utterly recalcitrant to comparative study and research." For Oswald Spengler and Arnold Toynbee, two famous historians, it is in the nature of civilisations to either be born and die or to evolve from lower to higher forms into which they are absorbed and give up their identity. Not so, it seems, to present-day Israelis. To a scholar and politician like Eban at least, "Jewishness is a notion that extends across the graveyards in which other civilisations are buried, expressing itself anew from generation to generation and refusing to follow a cycle that ends either in Spenglerian death or in Toynbeeian sublimation."

Probably it is because they belong to two different generations that the Israeli prime minister and his foreign minister have had their by-now-famous showdown over who would lead Israel's delegation to the Madrid peace talks. But we doubt that this is the whole story of why, on the eve of an historic moment for the Jews throughout the world and the state of Israel in particular, the premier would make the choice of antagonising his colleague as to endanger the peace process itself.

All Arabs should not necessarily be of the opinion that by designating himself head of the delegation, Shamir is in effect trying to sabotage the chances of the Madrid conference ever succeeding. On the contrary, some of us at least should see an advantage or two to his presence there. What all of us ought to be thinking about, however, is the implication of the step for the peace effort and its immediate impact on the negotiations that are doubtless going to shape and determine Israeli history and future. It is widely believed and said that Shamir will be taking to Madrid a more hardline position and delegation than Levy would have ever done in order to take a decision on the spot to walk out of the conference if and when he deems necessary, or to make proceeding with negotiations an impossible task for the Arabs, thus forcing them to quit the talks and be blamed for their failure. While this theory is possible, indeed very probable, the Arab side must not overemphasise its importance or allow itself to be consumed and used by petty squabbles among Israeli politicians or even by any genuine differences that they may choose to exhibit during the negotiating process.

The Arabs are going into the conference with international legitimacy and legal rights on their side. They are not entering a contest to see who among the Israeli leaders holds hawkish or dovish views. While understanding the Israeli psyche and negotiators' skills and tricks is very important, we should not lose sight of our basic and original goal, which is to find out whether the Israelis are willing to exchange land for peace, and if so, how and when.

This is probably easier done by getting Shamir and his hand-picked aides out of their stronghold and putting them on the spot in Madrid. If, on the other hand, what Shamir told Israeli Television on Friday that he "was not going to Spain to make concessions" is true, then we have to ask why he is bothering to go, or send anybody else, at all.

There is probably a moral to the story of what Abba Eban had to say about Jewish history and civilisation. In our opinion, it is that unless Israel is willing and ready to make peace with the Arabs now, Israeli power, rather than move to attain Toynbeeian sublimation, is destined end in Spenglerian death.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Sunday expressed satisfaction with the attitude and the statements of the members of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace conference in Madrid and said that they reflect increased self-confidence which is an essential factor for success. The paper noted specifically to the statements of Dr. Hanan Ashrawi who reiterated the Palestinian people's determination to uphold the resolutions of the Palestine National Council and the PLO's resolutions of 1988 which emphasised the Palestinian people's desire to obtain their national rights, including the Arab rights in the city of Jerusalem. Dr. Ashrawi's statement that the Palestinian delegation's position will emanate from the principles of the intifada and will reflect the aspirations of the Palestinians under Israeli occupation can only bring reassurance to the Palestinian people who have struggled for so long and offered sacrifices for the sake of achieving liberation from Zionist occupation, the paper said. The paper said that the Palestinians' national rights will be expressed through the Palestinian delegation in Madrid. By this statement, Dr. Ashrawi has thus offered a firm reply to Israel's psychological warfare on the Arabs on the eve of the Madrid conference, said the paper. There is no doubt that the Palestinian negotiators will prove their stand and rise to the Madrid occasion by defending their people's rights, by seeking a just and comprehensive peace and by proving that the intifada and the negotiations complement one another in the long process towards the fulfilment of national aspirations.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily urged the Arab League Secretary General Ismat Abdul Majid to direct his attention towards Iraq, now suffering from the effects of the unjust blockade. Bader Abdul Haq said that Abdul Majid, though a capable diplomat, seems to be hindered in taking a proper action to relieve the Iraqis from their suffering by the constraints imposed on him and the Arab League by the hegemony of Gulf states and those siding with the Americans in the Gulf war. But perhaps the complicated and deep differences among the Arab countries form the major stumbling block in the path of ending the embargo on Iraq, the writer added. What is needed urgently is to stop the sufferings of the Arab people of Iraq, not with standing the political differences that might persist among the Arab leaderships for a long time, Abdul Haq said. He said that recent reports coming out of Iraq indicated that the mortality rate of children there is now four times higher than that before the Gulf war.

U.S.: Palestinians should gain political, economic control over their lives

Following is the full text of a letter of assurances given to the Palestinians ahead of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid this week.

THE PALESTINIAN decision to attend a peace conference to launch direct negotiations with Israel represents an important step in the search for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region. The United States has long believed that Palestinian participation is critical to the success of our efforts.

In the context of the process on which we are embarking, we want to respond to your request for certain assurances related to this process. These assurances constitute U.S. understandings and intentions concerning the conference and ensuing negotiations.

These assurances are consistent with the United States policy and do not undermine or contradict United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Moreover, there will be no assurances provided to one party that are not known to all the others. By this we can foster a sense of confidence and minimise chances for misunderstandings.

As President George Bush stated in his March 6, 1991 address to Congress, the United States continues to believe firmly that a comprehensive peace must be grounded in United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of territory for peace. Such an outcome must also provide for security and recognition for all states in the region, including Israel, and for legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people. Anything else, the president noted, would fail the twin tests of fairness and security.

The process we are trying to create offers Palestinians a way to achieve these objectives. The United States believes that there should be an end to the Israeli occupation which can occur only through genuine and meaningful negotiations. The United States also believes that this process should create a new relationship of mutual respect between Palestinians and Israelis can respect one another's security, identity, and political rights. We believe Palestinians should gain control over political, economic and other decisions that affect their lives and fate.

Direct bilateral negotiations will begin four days after the opening of the conference; those parties who wish to attend multilateral negotiations will convene two weeks after the opening of the conference to organise those negotiations. In this regard, the United States will support Palestinian involvement in any bilateral or multilateral negotiations on refugees and in all multilateral negotiations. The conference and the negotiations that follow will be based on U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The process will proceed along two tracks through direct negotiations between Israel and Arab states and Israel and Palestinians. The United States is determined to achieve a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and will do its utmost to ensure that the process moves forward along both tracks toward this end.

In pursuit of a comprehensive settlement, all the negotiations should proceed as quickly as possible toward agreement. For its part, the United States will work for serious negotiations and will also seek to avoid prolongation and stalling by any party.

The conference will be co-sponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union. The European Community will be a participant in the conference alongside the United States and the Soviet Union and be represented by its presidency. The conference can reconvene only with the consent of all the parties.

With regard to the role of the United Nations, the U.S. secretary-general will send a representative to the conference as an observer. The co-sponsors will keep the secretary-general apprised of the progress of the negotiations. Agreements reached between the parties will be registered with the U.N. Secretary-General and reported to the Security Council, and the parties will seek the council's endorsement of such agreements. Since it is in the interest of all parties for this process to succeed, while this process is actively ongoing, the United States will not support a competing or parallel process in the United Nations Security Council.

The United States does not seek to determine who speaks for Palestinians in this process. We are seeking to launch a political negotiating process that directly involves Palestinians and offers a pathway for achieving the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people and for participation in the determination of their future. We believe that a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation offers the most promising pathway toward this end.

Only Palestinians can choose their delegation members, which are not subject to veto from anyone. The United States understands that members of the delegation will be Palestinians from the territories who agree to negotiations on two tracks, in phases, and who are willing to live in peace with Israel. No party can be forced to sit with anyone it does not want to sit with.

Palestinians will be free to announce their component of the joint delegation and to

make a statement during the opening of the conference. They may also raise any issue pertaining to the substance of the negotiations during the negotiations.

The United States understands how much importance Palestinians attach to the question of East Jerusalem. Thus, we want to assure you that nothing Palestinians do in choosing their delegation members in this phase of the process will affect their claim to East Jerusalem, or be prejudicial or precedential to the outcome of negotiations. It remains the firm position of the United States that Jerusalem must never again be a divided city and that its final status should be decided by the negotiations. Thus, we do not recognise Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem or the extension of its municipal boundaries, and we encourage all sides to avoid unilateral acts that would exacerbate local tensions or make negotiations more difficult or preempt their final outcome. It is also the United States position that a Palestinian resident in Jordan with ties to a prominent Jerusalem family would be eligible to join the Jordanian side of the delegation.

Furthermore, it is also the United States position that Palestinians of East Jerusalem should be able to participate by voting in the elections for an interim self-governing authority. The United States further believes that Palestinians from East Jerusalem and Palestinians outside the occupied territories who meet the three criteria should be able to participate in the negotiations on final status. And, the United States supports the right of Palestinians to bring any issue, including East Jerusalem, to the table.

Because the issues at stake are so complex and the emotions so deep, the United States has long maintained that a transitional period is required to break down the walls of suspicion and mistrust and lay the basis for sustainable negotiations on the final status of the occupied territories. The purpose of negotiations on transitional arrangements is to effect the peaceful and orderly transfer of authority from Israel to Palestinians. Palestinians need to achieve rapid control over political, economic, and other decisions that affect their lives and to adjust to a new situation in which Palestinians exercise authority in the West Bank and Gaza. For its part, the United States will strive from the outset and encourage all parties to adopt steps that can create an environment of confidence and mutual trust, including respect for human rights.

As you are aware with respect to negotiations between Israel and Palestinians, negotiations will be conducted in phases, beginning with talks

on interim self-government arrangements. These talks will be conducted with the objective of reaching agreement within one year. Once agreed, the interim self-government arrangements will last for a period of five years. Beginning the third year of the period of interim self-government arrangements, negotiations will take place on permanent status. It is the aim of the United States that permanent status negotiations will be concluded by the end of the transitional period.

It has long been our position that only direct negotiations based on U.S. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 can produce a real peace. No one can dictate the outcome in advance. The United States understands that Palestinians must be free, in opening statements at the conference and in the negotiations that follow, to raise any issue of importance to them. Thus, Palestinians are free to argue for whatever outcome they believe best meets their requirements. The United States will accept any outcome agreed by the parties. In this regard and consistent with longstanding U.S. policies, confederation is not excluded as a possible outcome of negotiations on final status.

The United States has long believed that no party should take unilateral actions that seek to predetermine issues that can only be resolved through negotiations. In this regard the United States has opposed and will continue to oppose settlement activity in the territories occupied in 1967, which remains an obstacle to peace.

The United States will act as an honest broker in trying to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. It is our intention, together with the Soviet Union, to play the role of a driving force in this process to help the parties move forward toward a comprehensive peace. Any party will have access to the co-sponsors at any time. The United States is prepared to participate in all stages of the negotiations, with the consent of the parties to each negotiation.

These are the assurances the United States is providing concerning the implementation of the initiative we have discussed. We are persuaded that we have a real opportunity to accomplish something very important in the peace process. And we are prepared to work hard together with you in the period ahead to build on the progress we have made. There will be difficult challenges for all parties. But with Palestinians' continued commitment and creativity, we have a real chance of moving to a peace conference and then on toward the broader peace that we all seek.

Severed hands tax Islamic minds

By Safa Haeri

ISLAMIC jurists in Iran are grappling with the problem of how to deal with a thief whose hand, in compliance with Islamic law, has been amputated but who then rushes to a hospital where a surgeon stitches it back on.

In a secret meeting held recently in Tehran under the chairmanship of the head of the Iranian Islamic Judiciary, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, jurists discussed the impact of modern surgery on the traditional Islamic punishments. But they did not reach any conclusion.

The Sharia, or traditional Islamic law, says a thief may be pardoned the first time he steals. For a second offence, some of his fingers are cut off. If he steals again then his hand is chopped off. At the time of the Prophet Mohammad the loss of the hand

was obviously permanent and there was no need for the law to discuss the subsequent fate of the hand.

The question Ayatollah Yazdi put to the congregation of leading Islamic jurists was what to do about a thief who, after his hand has been cut off in accordance with the sacred law, rushed to the nearest hospital and had it stitched back thanks to the ability of a surgeon.

If the law considers the chopped-off hand the property of the victim of the theft, and the thief has it sewed back, must he return to the executioner to have the hand cut off again? Or should doctors be ordered not to stitch back the hands of thieves? But wouldn't such an instruction conflict with the Hippocratic oath which requires doctors to treat any person regardless of the cause of an injury? — The Independent

LETTERS

Blessing or curse?

To the Editor:

I am writing to emphasise a problem which has, for the last four decades or so, been strange to our Jordanian society, but nowadays is becoming a source of nuisance, or even a nightmare, for almost every family in our country.

The other night, I happened to be with a group of people of different nationalities and different cultures. It is natural on such occasions for people to share views and information on certain issues of mutual or common concern. Despite the fact that the Madrid conference is the hot issue, by all standards, it was not the issue the group discussed about. The group's interest focused on the anonymous telephone callers who amuse themselves by calling the other people, just to upset them and give them hard time. Those people ignore the fact that telephone sets have primarily been intended to serve as cost-effective means of communication, rather than to be sources of annoyance.

I am sure that when Graham Bell invented the telephone, he never thought that this small-effective and miracle-like device would be tampered with or abused by a handful of irresponsible and ill-mannered people, whose major preoccupation is to play with the people's nerves. Had it crossed his mind, even for a moment, that the apparatus he invented to be a blessing will be turned one day into a curse, he would have never proceeded with his invention, or probably he would have created some toys or games for those child-like adults to play with.

It is high time for such irresponsible behaviour to stop and for the Jordanian society at large to denounce such behaviour and put an end to it.

Jalal Azraq,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Palestinians voice confidence

(Continued from page 1)

Agencies said Dr. Ashrawi said earlier the delegation expects tough negotiations with Israel but are confident the odds are in their favour. "We have always expected tough negotiations... but we have to remember that we the Palestinians are the people under the occupation and they (the Israelis) are the occupiers," Dr. Ashrawi told reporters in Amman.

Dr. Ashrawi, speaking after meeting President Mubarak, was responding to a question about Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's surprise decision to lead his country's delegation.

Arabs have voiced concern that the move indicated a hardening of his

already hardline position.

Dr. Ashrawi said that the Palestinians had a stronger case to argue than the Israelis.

"They (the Israelis) may look to be tough but we are extremely confident that our case is just and our people are determined. We have a strong case and a strong case to present. They don't have any arguments. We have all the arguments," she said.

"So I think regardless of the toughness and the hardline position of the Israelis the arguments are in our favour, international laws are in our favour, and the coordinated Arab position which is of course essential is in our favour," Dr. Ashrawi added.

Mr. Hameiri and Dr. Ashrawi were excluded from the Palestinian team to the peace talks to overcome

Israeli objections to representatives from Arab East Jerusalem. But they will go to Madrid to advise the official delegates.

Mr. Hameiri said after talks Saturday with Egyptian Foreign Minister Mubarak that Palestinians were keen not to give Israel a pretext to derail the conference.

He urged Mr. Shamir to go to Madrid with "an open mind and an open heart" to secure a peaceful settlement.

Israel

(Continued from page 1)

Israeli government," Mr. Assad said speaking through an interpreter in a CNN television interview. "Do they want peace or do they want the situation to remain as it is now?"

He was asked if the Arab countries should send their government leaders to the peace conference since Mr. Shamir is heading his country's delegation.

Mr. Assad said the meeting's success "does not depend on who represents the governments at the conference."

"Rather, it depends on the policies decided by the governments prior to sending their delegations to the peace conference."

Mr. Assad said he expected U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 on the Palestine question to be "put on the table and discussed as a whole" when the peace conference opens.

When asked if he would consider a separate accord with Israel, Mr. Assad replied, "Nobody inside or outside our region... has any interest in achieving less than a comprehensive peace."

Baker: U.S. following law

(Continued from page 1)

decision to waive the sanctions also took into account Israel's agreement last month to pledge adherence to the 1987 convention limiting the spread of missile technology.

The Israeli sources also were quoted as saying Israel had told the United States it would observe the pact and not renew military contacts with South Africa.

In his television comments Sunday Mr. Baker kept an even-handed posture on the Middle East peace talks despite an Israeli suggestion that the United States should tilt towards Israel at the meeting.

Mr. Baker was asked about a comment by Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens on the same ABC programme that he

would be disappointed if U.S. policy was "just even-handed."

"I find it difficult to accept that the United States would take an even-handed position when negotiations are held between Israel, the only democracy in the area, and countries run by totalitarian rulers that have time and again attacked Israel," Mr. Arens said.

Mr. Baker said: "It was the Israeli government that asked us to assume the role of an honest broker."

Asked if the United States should be even-handed, Mr. Baker said, "yes, we should."

President Bush, returning to the White House from Camp David, was asked Sunday if preparations were going well for the peace conference.

"I think everything's going ok," the president said.

PLO insists on settlement freeze

(Continued from page 1)

with the organisation last year after a failed attack on Israel by a hardline PLO faction.

"The Soviet Union has resumed its relations with Israel just before we started this conference. I really cannot see how the United States would delay resuming its relationship with the PLO," Dr. Shaath said, adding that the move would enhance the U.S. role as the conference organiser and make peace easier to achieve.

Dr. Shaath who is in Jordan along with other senior PLO officials for talks on the Madrid conference, did not say whether Washington had given any signs it was prepared to resume the dialogue.

Many political analysts feel that the United States would not be prepared to resume talks with the PLO so soon after pushing the Jewish state to the conference.

Dr. Shaath said Mr. Arafat's offer of a ceasefire with Israel could be raised at bilateral talks in Madrid.

"He is making that broad offer (of discussing the measure in a face-to-face meeting) but I think this could be raised in the bilateral talks," Dr. Shaath told Reuters.

"As we already have stopped any military action against civilians voluntarily he is offering also to freeze military actions against military installations," Dr. Shaath said.

"That would be possibly one of those confidence-building measures."

Mr. Arafat told reporters in Tunis Thursday he was prepared to discuss a ceasefire to help move the peace process forward but said Israel would have to talk to him first.

Dr. Shaath said the PLO would demand a freeze on Jewish settlements before discussing measures it might offer in exchange for other Israeli actions.

"Settlements should be frozen first. Then we will discuss the other matters and the quid pro quo," Dr. Shaath said.

"Nobody should offer Israel anything for stopping a flagrantly illegal act," he said. "I am talking about offering something in return for stopping martial law and applying Geneva conventions."

A seven-member Israeli settler team is going to Madrid independently of Israeli delegation. About 100,000 Jewish settlers live in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Arafat has said, he will play a pivotal, behind-the-scenes role in Madrid.

"I have the power to take the decisions," he told Reuters in an interview.

"What the negotiators cannot resolve, I will resolve in the corridors thanks to our international relations. The Palestinian parliament has given me a mandate to direct the peace process."

"We have agreed to personalities from the occupied territories representing us in place of our Foreign Minister Farouk Kaddoumi, as is the case for the other parties (to the talks), to show our goodwill," Mr. Arafat said.

Aides say he is confident that the Palestinian negotiators will follow the line laid down by the PLO.

"Don't forget that we agreed to the conference taking place in Madrid because, with Athens, it is the only European capital where we have an embassy," Mr. Arafat said.

Aides say he has given the United States and the Soviet Union an undertaking that the PLO will play no public role in the "first phase" of the negotiations.

Mubarak

(Continued from page 1)

Ms. Ashrawi said that the Palestinians were expecting a hardline Israeli position during the talks.

"But we are completely sure our cause is just and... international laws are on our side," she said.

The Egyptian delegation, led by Mr. Musa leaves for Madrid Tuesday.

In his comments, Mr. Mubarak would not be drawn on whether the Arabs would boycott the third stage of the conference — multi-lateral talks on regional issues such as water and arms control — unless progress was made first in bilateral talks.

"There should be substantial progress in the bilateral talks. We have discussed this issue with our partners but they still have not decided yet," he said.

Pressed on this issue, Mr. Mubarak said: "Let's leave this point out. I cannot tell you exactly but we hope we could reach something in this area."

He criticised calls by Middle East hardliners for boycotting the conference and for waging a holy war against Israel to regain the occupied territories.

Libya, Iran and Palestinian fundamentalists under occupation have all called the conference a sell-out.

"Those calling for a military solution are welcome... military solutions never make peace," he said.

"Those who speak of bringing armies to open Jerusalem and liberate it are welcome. We all want a liberated Jerusalem for the three religions (Islam, Christianity and Judaism)," he added.

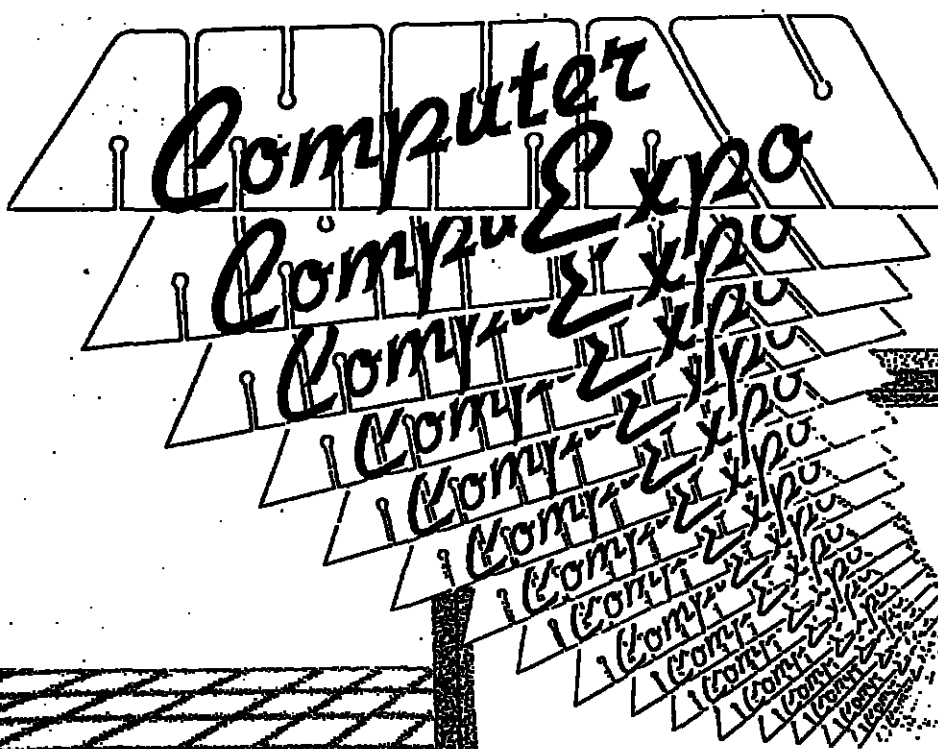
Mr. Mubarak repeated earlier statements that he would not meet Mr. Shamir unless such a meeting was sure to produce results.

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'Jordan committed to the U.N. of today and tomorrow'

Following is the full text of the address of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on the occasion of the United Nations Day which fell on Oct. 24.

It was approximately ten years ago when Jordan hosted the meeting not only of the United Nations Organisation but of a very important multilateral humanitarian organisation, the International Committee of the Red Cross. At the meeting, a dear friend, Alexander Haig, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross, inspired me to go to the General Assembly of the United Nations to address the subject of a humanitarian order, i.e. to formulate a code of conduct for times of peace. Many of you are aware of the law of war, but to date, there is not in existence a law of peace. One poses the question, as to why call for a humanitarian order in the eighties, a time when a new economic and information order have been sought. I find it interesting that today I stand before you to celebrate or commemorate United Nations Day at a moment where much is being said without explanation or specificity pertaining to a new world order.

Quiet frankly, the absence of substance to this lofty goal and aim is worrisome. When we look at the Middle East, the substance is incorporated in that all embracing title "Security." Having participated in the Independent Commission for Humanitarian Issues, I addressed, a few weeks ago, the non-governmental orga-

nisations in New York, thus participating in representing the powerless; the Independent Commission, became as some of you who worked with us may remember, the powerless lobby for the powerless.

I attempt to address the subject of security against the background of the words of Professor Walker of the University of Victoria in Canada who said: "The primary subject of security is people not states, not elites, nor the affluent, nor the stronger. In rethinking security it has become less a concept with any analytical precision than an instrument of mystifying rhetoric. Appeals to the need for security justify the most blatant abuses and encourage the resort to escalating levels of violence; such appeals legitimise vast arsenals and the curtailment of democratic rights and procedures."

The concept of security is now more a symptom of the problem than a guide for the implementation of peace and justice.

I stand before you at a watershed of looking beyond the Gulf war. As we look beyond the Gulf war, I believe that a broadly defined security concept means the necessity of tackling the root causes of conflict.

As we attempt hastily and procedurally to conceive new security structures for the Middle East region, we may end up compromising in certain instances our internal security at the national level. To elaborate, I wish to make the following topical com-

parison: the United States Air Force loss of two F-15 fighters by Jan. 21 of this year cost £32 million. This amount would buy "Save the Children's" entire overseas budget for 1990-1991; the cost of one bomb on a B52, of \$11,000, would run a clinic for 4,060 patients in Bangladesh for one month. The cost of bombs in 31 B52 sorties, of \$2 billion is an equivalent of Oxfam's entire 1990 income; the five Tornados lost in Jan. 23 cost £105 million; this would mean enough grain to feed the 20 million people likely to starve in Africa; and the list continues.

The most recent newswatches on the situation of children in Iraq indicate that up to 500 children are dying every day in Iraq of malnutrition, diarrhoea, typhoid and tuberculosis. Every day brings new awareness of the billions of dollars committed to the purchase of new weapons and weapon systems. To sum up, it is through emphasising the political and economic dimensions of security that an immediate expansion of the tools available to deal with the transfrontiers and transnational issues can be achieved, i.e. politics where humanitarian considerations are paramount, politics where people matter.

It is true that there is an increased awareness of the socio-economic roots of conflict in the Middle East. However, the continuous suffering of people — allow me here to refer specifically to Palestinian refugees' conditions in Jordan and in the other

host countries — makes one wonder how much awareness there is of the economics and the politics of despair.

The Arab-Israeli wars have produced since the 1948 war the largest wave of immigration the Arab World has known in the twentieth century: 750,000 Palestinians were forced to leave their homes to the eastern area of Palestine known as the West Bank Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the Gaza Strip. During the 1967 war, more than 300,000 Palestinians were displaced. According to statistics from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the annual population increase of refugees exceeds 3 per cent. As a result, more than 2.4 million Palestinian refugees are now registered with UNRWA; a third of them live in 61 camps set up by the agency in its five fields of operation in Jordan, the West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon and Syria, and the others share with the people of host countries — to a greater or lesser extent — their own livelihood. Most of the refugees, about 930,000, reside in Jordan, according to updated UNRWA records which also show that 414,000 reside in the West Bank, 409,000 in Lebanon and 281,000 in Syria. The reason for my quoting these figures, is that a United Nations for tomorrow's world has not dealt with the consequences of the successive Middle East wars in an integrated manner expected from a United Nations family. Such an inte-

grated approach is important as we continue to speak of multilateralism, political balance and symmetry.

The ESCWA report on the migration of returnees from the Gulf to Jordan, for which Jordan is deeply grateful, speaks in its concluding statement of external aid needed to be provided to Jordan to help it cope with the immediate needs of the returnees and their additional absorption. This new wave is the third demographic upheaval taking place in Jordan. I believe that Jordan, the occupied territories and Israel are incapable, given the limited resources available, of absorbing the political economics of despair unless and until a transnational awareness of the nature of the burden is clarified in terms of symmetry and political balance. I do not need here to remind you that in addition to the direct financial losses to its economy due to the Gulf crisis, Jordan has been suffering from an additional financial and economic burden by virtue of the unexpected and continuous large influx of returnees, Jordanians and Palestinians, at least 300,000. All require extra costs in education, health, housing, municipal and public services, and new job opportunities. The total financial resources required is \$4.5 billion in order to barely safeguard the current standard of living. These are humble estimates in contrast with what Israel is currently pushing for its roughly 245,000 Soviet Jews, i.e. \$10 billion in

housing loan guarantees only.

It is paradoxical that the highest executive authority in the U.N. vested with the preservation of global peace — the five permanent members — supply of 85 per cent of the world's conventional weapons. The issue of armaments should be addressed in its totality. The five permanent members who voice concern about the proliferation of weapons — conventional and non-conventional — must formulate and implement policies accordingly. It is those five Security Council members who are acutely aware of the indebtedness of the Third World, in the context of the OECD and EEC. It is difficult to conceive of any single cause for indebtedness other than the purchase of weapons, conventional and non-conventional.

An eminent scholar has stated, and I quote: "To read the concept of development from the standpoint of security, is to understand that hunger is a form of genocide. This form of development may not be discussed in the U.S. Security Council but it is no less a threat to human beings than the missiles standing silently in their silos."

To underline this point, ladies and gentlemen, it is my hope that we can consider the issue of justice in the coming process by saying that it is impossible to ration justice. It must be conceived and implemented in accordance with uniform criteria. To remain viable, the U.N. must continue to reassess its role as the

institutional global focal point. With the end of the cold war and the emergence of multipolarity, the structural elements of the U.N. must be reformed in order to achieve greater symmetry in tackling world issues, i.e. relating to the global village, demographic trends, the widening gap between the haves and the have-nots, and the economics of political despair. Ironically, the political economy of despair has provided a window of opportunity, a threshold for peace against the background of an extremely precarious and explosive situation. Democratisation, freedom of expression, human rights, and the accountability of governments provide the framework for the alternative political economy of peace, security and progress.

I have stated on many occasions the need for a multilateral approach to regional problem-solving. It is to extend the Helsinki process to the Middle East through a three-pronged strategy based on energy policy, arms control and debt reduction.

Successful economic cooperation and creative investment can transform the existing regional zero-sum game into a process of reconstruction and mutual gains. Our concept in this regard is based on viewing regional security through three basic route maps: military, political and economic. Unfortunately the easing of tensions in Europe and the success of negotiations on conventional forces in Europe (CFE), Confidence in Security

Building Measures (CSBM) and Mutual and Balance Force Reduction (MBFR) have all led to the transfer of armament from Europe to the Third World; tension and its causes have been transferred to the Third World.

Unlike Eastern Europe, however, so far no concept of regional economic stabilisation has emerged for the Middle East. I ask the members of the U.N. family to assist us and assist the Middle East region in developing that much needed interdisciplinary and cooperation between your agencies. There is the need to present a picture of the reality when looking at the world, and to voice the aspirations and hopes of its people in an international idiom at a moment when the U.N. is living a period of soul searching.

It is my hope, God willing, that when we meet again at the same time next year it will be with a sense of satisfaction and achievement, a new persona and a new identity. Let us hope that these goals can be realised through joint action and joint commitment.

I wish to convey my thanks for those of you who have lived this last year, the nightmare and the trauma. I agree with the president of the General Assembly that the presence of the U.N. family can and should be enhanced by the will of its members. Certainly, Jordan is a country that has and will continue to be committed to the U.N. today and tomorrow.

Soviet Jews find a land that promises nothing

By Shyam Bhatia

THE rivers of milk and honey are drying up for thousands of Soviet Jews who continue to pour into the Promised Land. Up to 10,000 a month are still prepared to brave the uncertainties of a new life in Israel, but the shortage of homes and poor job prospects have deterred many others from leaving their land of birth.

Hundreds of disillusioned immigrants who queue every week outside the Soviet consulate in Tel Aviv say they have seen the light and prefer to return to the homes and uncertainty they left behind.

About 200 Soviet Jews who fled to Germany during the Gulf crisis have applied for asylum there and refused to return to Israel.

"We call this the reservation," says 19-year-old Mikhail Balabanov, pointing to the bleak forest of caravans, neatly lined up like rows of rabbit hutches, south of Beersheba in the Negev Desert where daytime temperatures peak at 40C.

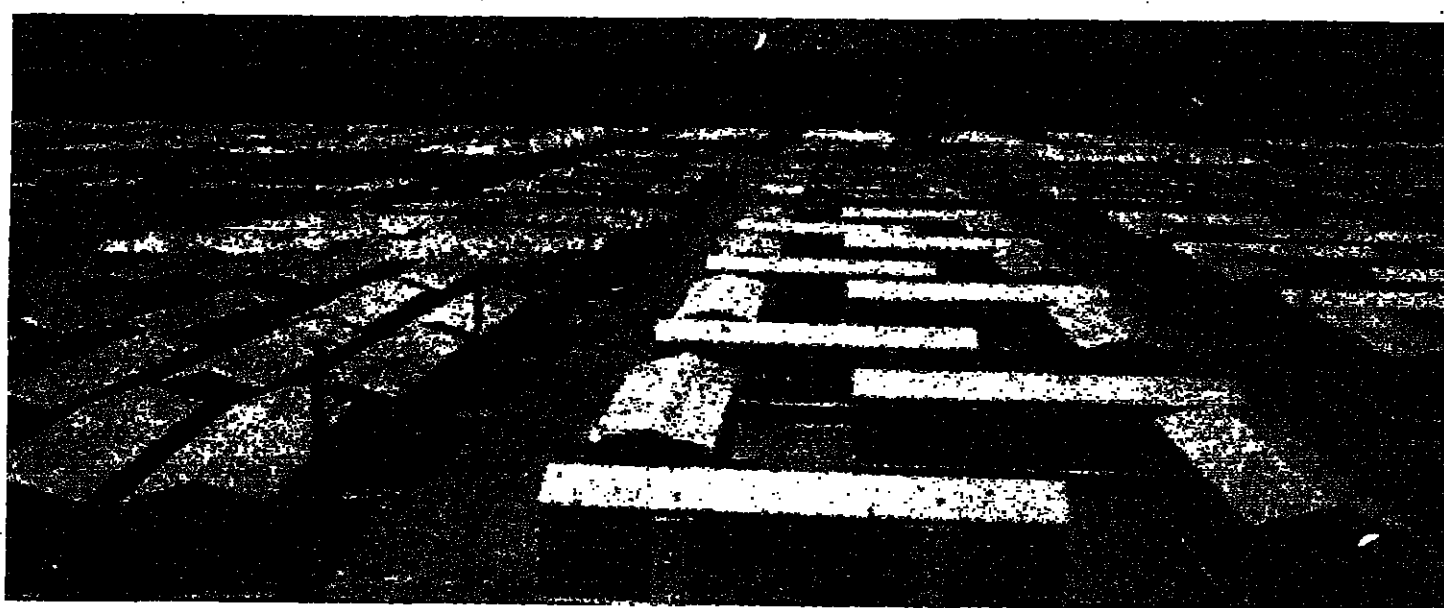
"But our situation here is better than a refugee camp. Every beginning is difficult. I love this country and I want to help. I am a

Zionist."

Mikhail's enthusiasm is not shared by his elders, who include doctors, architects and engineers in desperate search of jobs that refuse to materialise. They are the unlucky ones who huddle together at Israel's largest caravan site set up by the government as a temporary solution to the housing crisis.

Boredom is evident on the faces of the men who play chess in their shorts and singlets. Outside, by the caravan steps, a group of mothers supervises children who create exotic images in the sand with finely polished desert stones. "Our options are very limited," says Grigori Balabanov, Mikhail's uncle. "So many people in Israel cannot manage because of the unemployment, it's even difficult on the building sites. If I had a chance, I would go to Canada or Australia."

Grigori, a computer technician, was born in Moez, Byelorussia, about 600 miles from Chernobyl. One of the reasons for the family leaving was the nuclear disaster at the reactor. Alarm bells started ringing when the Balabanovs' nine-year-old daughter, Ora, returned home from school and told her parents that



Beersheba's caravan city — providing a bleak welcome for Israel's citizens

some of her friends were being treated for leprosy in their necks. Like many others arriving at Ben Gurion airport, Tel Aviv, they had high hopes of finding jobs, a decent life and a secure future for their children. A year later they are disillusioned. "Most of the people who come from the Soviet Union are edu-

cated," says veteran human rights campaigner Nathan Sharansky. "Their professional career was something of great importance to them in the Soviet Union."

Last year the Russians were arriving at the rate of 35,000 a month, which prompted starry-eyed planners to project a 30 per cent increase in the country's

population. Last month only 5,000 new arrivals were registered.

"What happened is that the 325,000 who have already come write home and say, 'There is no job for you, wait if you can,'" explains Sharansky. "Even so, there are one million others standing in line for invitations

from the government of Israel. That's the potential and I believe they will all come in the next four or five years."

Vitaly Prakiye disagrees. He is a 48-year-old construction engineer from St. Petersburg. "I am very disappointed because I came here and found no money, no work, no apartment, no respect.

All I had was my wife. Now even my wife has left me. In Russia I had a good flat and a good job. I have worked in Africa, Germany, France, but in Israel I found no suitable job after searching for 11 months. Now I have temporary work as a street cleaner."

Even by Israeli standards the allowances available for new immigrants are barely adequate.

To make ends meet, some families club together to rent a flat, often sleeping three or four to a room.

The problems facing the immigrants are bound to multiply unless Israel has access to generous assistance from abroad, including the \$10 billion loan guarantees that the U.S. has deferred until next year. Left-wing politicians say the government must choose between creating new settlements or jettisoning its ideological principles to attract the required investment.

Mr. Sharansky says: "Our people won't die of hunger if they don't work... If you talk to a group of people who have found jobs, they are full of hope. After all, the Russians have no choice. Some can go to Canada, Australia or the U.S., but for thousands there is nowhere else to go. There

are 5,000 to 6,000 doctors without jobs, every month 500 new doctors come — so many qualified people who must make their home here."

Sources in Israel's Health Ministry say the situation is far more serious. Of 9,000 doctors who have arrived in the past two years, only 100 have found jobs in local hospitals. The huge number of arrivals prompted a senior adviser to the ministry, Professor Mordechai Sheni, to plead with would-be immigrant doctors to reconsider their travel plan.

Although success stories are rare, those who have found jobs say they will never leave Israel. Alexander and Ella Abilev, both scientists with doctorates, left St. Petersburg 18 months ago. Earlier this year Alexander found a job in Jerusalem as a computer programmer with Israel's largest bank. The couple, who have one young son, now rent a flat in one of Jerusalem's better suburbs.

"We are satisfied, we have no complaints," says Ella. "There are many other things we still want to do. For example, I am still searching for a job, but we have never thought of leaving here because we still have hope." — Observer.

Women of Iran start to loosen their chains

By Parichehre Mosteshar

"WHEN you consider the role of women in Iran you can't just look at Islam or this regime. Our lives are the product of a history that has put women in a secondary role, always beside a man," says Minoo, a student in her twenties and a former headmistress.

"Because Islam says that it is the duty of the man to make the money for the home, our men have used the excuse to say, 'If I am the head in the house then I am the head everywhere,'" although "Islam doesn't say this."

Despite this, women's rights in Iran have taken two major strides forward in recent weeks thanks to the repeal of what were considered two of the most repressive pieces of legislation: first to go was the requirement that a woman should have written permission from her husband before travelling abroad, followed by the man's right to divorce his wife at whim by just saying "I divorce thee."

"At last we are seeing signals that women are not the property of their men," said Maryam Nassari, a former secretary. "No matter what the government does, there are always anarchic groups that misuse the law to harass women. I left my job after the office was raided for the third time in a month by the local kamish. We were all rounded up, questioned all day about whether the others relaxed the hejab law, and finally allowed home feeling violated and dirty. I can work, yes; but I don't need the money why put up with the indignity? I father stay home."

However, according to Minoo, who chose to adopt the hejab (women's overgarment) long before the revolution, no amount of legislation can make up for the woman's traditional role. "In my

home I am the only one that has readily embraced Islam and the hejab, but still my brother is not allowed to help with the housework. If my father sees him even handling me something while I am cooking he goes mad. When you are brought up like this, who can expect them to treat women as equals?"

"The regime says that we are free to work, but it is not so because it is still the men who have to give us the jobs, it's the men who are put in charge. They try to fool women by setting women's day and holding meetings on women's rights. The very fact that we speak so much about it shows that we have no rights, we are still fighting to get them."

For Soraya, a senior university lecturer who discovered Islam at university, while studying for a PhD in the U.S., life is a lot simpler. "Islam says that I have to accept everything, including the hejab, even if I don't believe that it is right. I have to have my husband's permission for everything I do. If tomorrow he tells me to give up my job and stay at home I must obey, you can't argue for all your life. The law will not punish me if I don't do what I am told, it is just my faith and I accept the difficult parts as well as the easy."

"In return he must pay me for doing the housework. When I am breastfeeding my children he must pay me for it and get someone in to do the housework. But what sort of a relationship would it be if I said, 'No, I am not going to do this or that until you give me my money.'"

Maryam argues that the hejab is "the chain that every woman wears and the symbol of her repression," but for Minoo it is the symbol of purity that "puts her above other women." However, Soraya argues that the hejab has liberated her. "People talk to you as a person, not a

woman with a body."

The traditional form of the hejab is the chador, the long black sheet that has become the familiar image of the Muslim woman in the West. Even Shahin would rather see this removed. "You should try and wear the chador while holding on to your child with one hand and your books for work in the other." This is the dress adopted by the women of Hizbollah, and, according to Minoo, it is misused to seek career advancement. "You can't expect to get promoted unless you look the part. Often I see senior lecturers who know little of their subject but have advanced because they look right. There are also dress requirements for men, but they are rarely arrested if they don't have the regulation three days of beard growth and wear their shirts over their trousers to hide their shape."

For less committed women it is acceptable in all but the strictest circles to wear the modern version of the hejab, a large scarf to cover the hair and neck, a loose calf-length coat to cover the shape of the body and thick tights or trousers. Young women who let as much hair as possible show from under their scarfs and wear makeup still run the risk of arrest, but they now rarely encounter abuse from their more devout sisters.

However, Iranian women seem to have little control over their bodies. Unmarried women are not given scholarships to study abroad for fear they will be corrupted. Although most universities have equal numbers of male and female students, women find it almost impossible to get into areas such as archaeology, as this means foreign travel. Schools are segregated, and, although universities are mixed, female students are denied career opportunities



Iranian women in the traditional full-length hejab consider an array of wedding dresses in a shop window

as they are expected to go back to housework after graduating.

Women cannot work as lawyers on the grounds that they are too emotional to make sound judgments, but the family courts

of the Islamic republic have several female judges. Most of the other work restrictions, such as the ban on female vets, have been lifted.

President Rafsanjani is among

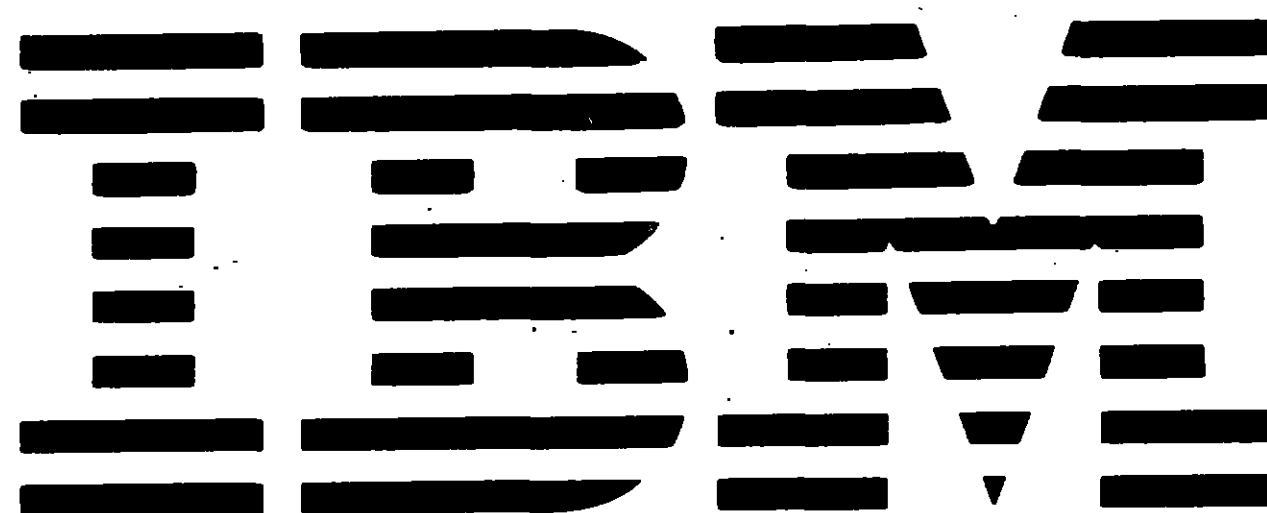
the "open-minded" wing on the question of the hejab. He recently advised women to wear simple things and try not to look attractive, but warned against forcing women "to go under the chador."

Facilities for women are improving in the cities. For example, at Az-Sabah University, the only all-female university in Iran, there is a creche for the children

of students and lecturers. However, for women in the villages, life is still a question of marriage, children, old age and death. — The Independent.



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Man. United knocked off the top league spot

LONDON (R) — Substitute Nigel Jenson scored twice as Sheffield Wednesday inflicted the first league defeat of the season on Manchester United Saturday.

The 3-2 defeat toppled United from the top spot in the English first division and rounded off a miserable week for the side, beaten by Atletico Madrid in the European Cup Winners' Cup Wednesday.

Leeds gleefully grabbed a one-point first division lead thanks to a 1-0 win over Oldham which came from an own goal by Brian Kilcline.

Manchester United had not been beaten in 12 league matches and looked safe when Brian McClair scored twice within five minutes of the first half, after a 15th-minute header by David Hirst had put Sheffield 1-0 up at Hillsborough.

But then, in the second half, the home side brought on striker Jenson in place of midfielder Nigel Worthington and the Sheffield Wednesday jinx struck United again.

In 1985, United were top of the league with a 15-match unbeaten run when they went to Wednesday. They lost and finished the season fourth.

Jenson's equaliser for 2-2 in the 69th minute brought United manager Alex Ferguson to his feet on the touchline.

Ferguson was struck on the head by an object thrown from the stands and police waded into the crowd to try to find the culprit.

Moments later another Jenson shot was just tipped over the bar by United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel but the striker re-

fused to give up.

He took the winner in the 80th minute when he headed home a corner cross from Phil King.

Leeds had not been top of the first division since 1974 but their return owed much to luck.

Kilcline hit the Leeds' woodwork in the first half, before his 55th minute own goal, and early in the second half Leeds goalkeeper John Lukic only just saved a fierce shot by Mike Milligan.

Manchester City held on to third place with a scrappy 3-2 home win over Sheffield United. Sheffield's Brian Gayle, formerly the City captain, scored twice in the first half on his return to Maine Road but his efforts were in vain.

Mike Sheron had put city one ahead in the 22nd minute with his first goal for the team and the score was level at halftime after Gayle's double and a header from Irishman Niall Quinn.

But Quinn's 20-year-old compatriot Michael Hughes had the last word when he pounded the ball home in the 76th minute after a shot by Quinn was blocked.

West Ham's 2-1 victory over London rivals Tottenham ended in virtual chaos.

Tottenham's expensive Scottish striker Gordon Durie was sent off in injury time for collecting a second yellow card and defender Pat Van Den Hauwe was carried off 14 minutes before the end after being injured in a collision with West Ham's Mike Small.

Small had scored West Ham's first goal, in the 12th minute, seven minutes after England captain Gary Lineker had struck his

16th goal of the season for Tottenham.

Former Tottenham defender Mitchell Thomas gave West Ham only their second home win of the season when he scored into an empty net on 28 minutes.

Liverpool enjoyed their first league win since Sept. 7 with a 1-0 home triumph over Coventry.

Irish international Ray Houghton scored after 34 minutes when he picked up a cross from winger Mark Walters to slide the ball past the near post.

Defending champions Arsenal struggled for 69 minutes against Notts County before England striker Alan Smith ended a seven-game barren spell.

Smith scored with a close-range shot from a low cross by Andres Limpar, a substitute for Kevin Campbell who went off injured in the first half.

Arsenal ran out 2-0 winners after Ian Wright collected his seventh goal in six games for the north London side five minutes later.

Scottish side Celtic responded well to manager Liam Brady's call to pick themselves up after a 5-1 mauling by Switzerland's Neuchatel Xamax in the UEFA Cup Tuesday.

Celtic thrashed St Mirren 5-0 in the Premier Division with Tommy Coyne getting his name on the scoresheet twice.

The result horrified St Mirren manager David Hay, who announced he was withholding his players' wages as punishment.

"They won't get paid because they don't deserve it," Hay said. "In my time as a manager I've never been in charge of a team as poor as this."

Puckett's 11th-inning homer forces 7th game of series

MINNEAPOLIS (R) — The Minnesota Twins sent the improbable cinderella series to the limit on Saturday when Kirby Puckett capped a brilliant night with a home run in the 11th inning to beat the Atlanta Braves 4-3.

Puckett's lead-off homer in the 11th against Charlie Leibrandt, Atlanta's opening game starter making a rare relief appearance, sent his teammates pouring from the dugout and the Metrodome crowd of 55,155 into a delirious decibel-busting frenzy.

The dramatic home run by Puckett, who had three hits, three runs batted in and made a sensational catch against the wall, also sent the World Series into a climactic seventh game, to be played on Sunday in the Metrodome.

"I feel like I've been in a 15-round fight," said Puckett, who was speaking as much about the grind of the game as the pounding he took from teammates who surrounded the squat, powerfully built hero when he arrived at home plate. "I'm so drained."

Twins ace Jack Morris will oppose Atlanta right-hander John Smoltz in the decisive seventh game of the series between two teams that finished in last place a year ago. The series so far has had every victory go to the home team.

In an electrifying World Series that has specialised in the unexpected, Game 6 delivered another amazing finish — the fourth game of the series decided by a single run in a team's final at bat.

Puckett, and the rest of the Twins' big hitters, had been silenced by the Braves hurlers during the three-game sweep in

Atlanta that took them within one victory of the championship.

But Puckett led the charge in Saturday's do-or-die game for the Twins as he tripled home a run in the first inning, knocked in Minnesota's third run with a sacrifice fly in the fifth and stopped a potential big inning for the Braves with his brilliant catch of Ron Gant's soaring drive in the third.

"He's one of the impact players of baseball," Twins manager Tom Kelly said. "The catch was beautiful, the triple got us going at the start. He played superlatively, both defensively and offensively."

Twice the Twins took the lead and twice the Braves bounced back. Minnesota led 2-0 after the first and Atlanta tied it with two in the fifth on a home run by Terry Pendleton, who had four hits. The Twins added a run in their half of the fifth and the Braves marched it with one in the seventh.

That's the way it stayed until Puckett parked the ball into the seats to make a winner of relief ace Rick Aguilera. Leibrandt took the loss.

The Braves began their comeback after losing the first two games in Minnesota by taking a thrilling 12-inning win in Atlanta on Tuesday that started them on their sweep.

The Twins hope this extraordinary triumph will carry them to a repeat of their World Series championship of 1987, when they won all four at home to vanquish the St. Louis Cardinals.

"These one-run ball games, I think I'll be sick all winter," Puckett said of the tension that has accompanied all but one of the six games. "This is a game I'll never forget."

Asked what went through his mind when Puckett sent the series into a seventh game, Sunday starter Morris said:

"Something from the late, great Marvin Gaye — 'Let's Get It On.'"

Puckett's triple down the third base line started the scoring when he brought Chuck Knoblauch home. Shane Mack then snapped his 0-15 drought with a single off Braves starting pitcher Steve Avery, scoring Puckett.

Pendleton, the National League batting champion, brought the Braves back with a line drive two-run homer to centre in the fifth off Minnesota's 20-game winner, Scott Erickson.

Atlanta then barely missed taking the lead when David Justice's towering blast down the rightfield line landed just foul in the upper deck.

The Twins went ahead in their half of the inning without benefit of a baserun.

Dan Gladden walked, stole second, moved to third on a liner to right field and scored on Puckett's sacrifice fly to centre.

Atlanta evened it in the seventh as Pendleton contributed again by beating out a dribbler past the mound to load the bases with one out. Ron Gant tied the game 3-3 with a grounder to short that scored Mark Lemke, who continued his remarkable production with two more hits.

The Braves, who have backed the odds all season, were not ready to quit.

"We haven't done anything easy all year, so why start now?" catcher Greg Olson said. "If it's destiny, we'll win."

Kelly said: "This is like a storybook with a storybook ending and coming up is chapter seven."

Waddle helps Marseille clinch away victory

PARIS (R) — England's Chris Waddle scored in the second half to help Marseille to a 2-0 win at Le Havre Saturday and stretch their lead in the French Soccer League to two points.

Defender Basile Boli opened the scoring with a header in the 37th minute and Waddle put the issue beyond doubt in the 71st minute.

"The crowd were just fine here. If only the fans could always behave like that," said Marseille's ace marksman Jean-Pierre Papin, who was struck by a beer bottle last week at St Etienne.

Monaco, disappointing lately after an impressive start to the season, were held to a goalless draw at home by struggling Lens

and are now two points behind the defending champions.

Paris St Germain, who signed eight new players this season, achieved a convincing 2-0 victory over Nimes, thanks to two superb goals by Amara Simba. They are third, one point behind Monaco.

Argentine star Leonardo Rodriguez, set to join Marseille next season, scored his fifth goal in six matches to give Toulon a 1-0 win over Sochaux.

Cen clinched their first away win in two years by beating Lille 2-1, while bottom-placed Nancy, who have just appointed a new trainer, revived with a 3-1 victory over Nantes.

Once-great St Etienne showed glimpses of their old form when they beat Cannes 2-0.

Xie nears women's chess title as game 14 ends in draw

MANILA (AP) — Challenger Xie Jun of China drew closer Sunday to winning the world's Women's Chess Championship by drawing game 14 with defending titleholder Maya Chiburdanidze of the Soviet Union.

The draw allowed Miss Xie to reach 8 points, a comfortable 2 points ahead of Miss Chiburdanidze. The 20-year-old challenger from Peking only has to draw one of the remaining two games to snatch the title that Miss Chiburdanidze has held since 1978.

The 31-year-old Georgian must win the last two games to tie Miss Xie. Under tournament rules, Miss Chiburdanidze retains the title in case the 16-game series ends in a tie.

A victory is worth one point and a draw earns one-half point for each player.

Both players agreed to a draw after 61 moves in six hours of play. It was the longest game in terms of moves and time in the series so far.

GOVERNOR BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH
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YOU BE THE JUDGE

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ 10 6 5 3

♥ A 4

♦ Q 6

♣ Q 10 9 7 3

WEST

♠ Q 8 4 2

♥ 7 3

♦ J 10 2

♣ 8 5 4

EAST

♠ A J

♥ K Q 6 2

♦ A K 7 3

♣ J 8 2

The bidding:

South West North East

1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass

2 ♥ Pass 2 NT Pass

3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♠

Here's another chance for you to test your analytical skills. Study the bidding and play of this three-trump contract and then decide which, if any, of the players committed any errors.

We don't agree with those of our readers who feel that North should have passed one no trump. The five-card suit, distributional values and fine intermediate cards clearly merit a game invitation either in spades, if a 4-4 fit exists, or in no trump.

West led a low spade to East's king and won with the ace in the

closed hand. Declarer crossed to the queen of diamonds and led a low club. East climbed up with the king and, when that held, reverted to a spade. West forced out the ten of spades and, on regaining the lead with the ace of clubs, cashed out the spades for a one-trick set.

First, let's hand out a couple of kudos. Declarer did well to cross to dummy to lead a low club toward the closed hand. Secondly, East made an expert play by rising with the king. Had that defender reflexively played low, declarer would have been able to force out West's only entry to the spades and the contract would have coasted home.

For all that, we must blame declarer for not taking an extra chance for the contract. South does not need a second spade trick to fulfill the contract. If clubs can be developed, nine tricks are there for the taking. A late second stopper in spades could, however, be crucial.

Observe what would happen if declarer allows East to win the first trick with the king of spades, then wins the continuation. When declarer now goes after clubs, East can again win the first trick in that suit, but doesn't have another spade. And when West gets in, the ten of spades is still a stopper in the suit. Three no trump bid and made.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Perth wins Australian basketball title

PERTH, Australia (AP) — James Crawford scored 19 points and Rick Grace added 16 to lead the Perth Wildcats to a 90-80 victory over the eastside Melbourne Spectres in Australia's National Basketball League Championship game. It was the second consecutive league title for Wildcats, who are coached by former Chicago Bulls assistant Murry Arnold. Perth led 45-39 at halftime. But the Spectres, who had forced a third and deciding game in the best-of-three championship series with a victory Friday at the Perth Entertainment Centre, fought back to tie the game 51-51 in the third quarter. The Spectres trailed 84-80 with only a minute left, but Grace hit two free shots, putting the game out of reach.

Fabi takes sportscar drivers' title

AUTOPOLIS, Japan (R) — Italy's Teo Fabi added the World Sportscar Drivers' Championship to Jaguar's Constructors' Title Sunday but Mercedes came good at last by winning the final race of the season. Fabi, with co-driver David Brabham, brought his Jaguar XJR-14 home in third place to clinch the title. Team mate Derek Warwick, racing solo, was the overall runner-up. But the day belonged as much to Mercedes who grabbed their first win of the season. Michael Schumacher, the rising star of Formula One, took his Mercedes C291 into the lead one-third of the way through the 430-km race and co-driver Karl Wendlinger kept it there. The Mercedes 12-cylinder engines have been unreliable in recent races but they had no problems at Autopolis. The start was delayed by thick cloud on the mountain-top circuit and there were fears of a cancellation. But conditions improved sufficiently for the race to start 90 minutes late. Jaguar, who won the Constructors' Championship three weeks ago in Mexico City, settled for a tactical race.

Atletico Madrid suffers 1st defeat

MADRID (R) — Leaders Atletico Madrid slumped to their first Spanish Soccer League defeat of the season at the hands of defending champions Barcelona Saturday. Atletico's perfect record of six wins out of six first division games played was ended when they lost 1-0 away to the Catalans. The result could cost Atletico top spot since Real Madrid, only one point behind, are expected to beat lowly Logrones. Barcelona, 13th before this victory, revived their ailing league fortunes by beating an Atletico side who had conceded only one goal in their first six league games. The winner came after 39 minutes from a move started by Dane Michael Laudrup in midfield and sustained by Altor Begunistain, whose pass found Bulgarian striker-Kristo Stoichkov. Stoichkov had no difficulty in firing home a left-footed shot well above Atletico keeper Abel Resino.

European association admits Baltics

ESTORIL, Portugal (R) — The European Athletic Association (EAA) council said it had agreed to admit the three Baltic states as provisional members. EAA President Carl-Olaf Homen said the council had received membership applications from Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia and discussed them at its two-day meeting which ended Saturday.

Dickson, Isler advance to yachting final

HAMILTON, Bermuda (R) — Sailing under conditions in which survival alone should have counted as victory, American Peter Isler and New Zealander Chris Dickson Saturday advanced to the final of the World Match Racing Yachting Championships. Championship organisers were forced to curtail the day's programme as 40 to 50 knot winds lashed Bermuda's Hamilton Harbour. The scheduled best-of-seven semifinals were reduced to best-of-three and skippers were forced to go with the smallest possible sails.

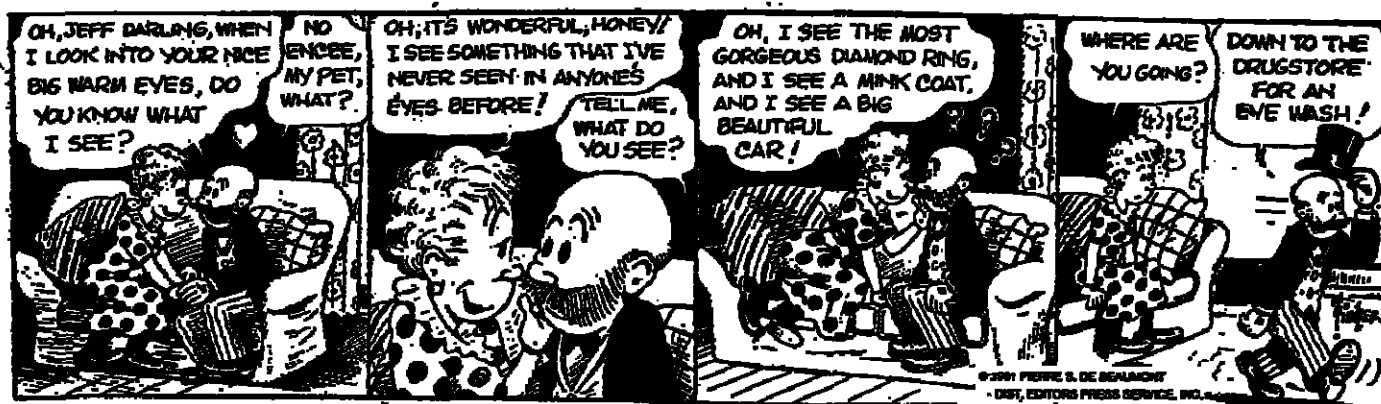
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Although some personal pleasure may be withheld from you in the A.M., you will find that everything works out for the best in the early evening with a partner or business associate.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Money matters of all kinds can come to a head and can be handled wisely and intelligently by you and then you can get off to pleasures that especially appeal to you.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20) There's a number of fascinating individuals you can see and be with but first you are able to add beauty and your own tangy to surroundings.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Make a point to show you do value the affection given you by your family who are apt to be a little distressed over some outside matter, they need your understanding.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You have some civic responsibility or vocational duty that you are tied down to discharge should be in a most thorough and conscientious manner.

LEO (July 22 to August 21) You now find that you have some very interesting new appraisal of how you can get ahead in a new venture or with new allies which you can make definite commitments.

VIRGO (August 22 to September 22) Make sure you closely listen to what your emotions tell you. A last carry and carry through earnestly if you want to keep this romance at a high point.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) This is the day for you to seek any

reason why a personal or business ally is associated with you and to remove obstacles by showing you care.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Many projects require your undivided attention now but in no doing you can add beauty and color to your environment by your own ideas and cooperation with others.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Whenever appeals to you for some recreation and amusement should be what has been enjoyed before and that does not require a new positive force to gain.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 20) You now find that whatever your family desires should have priority and you are able to gain the good will of higher-ups to by backing their desires.

AQUARIUS (January 21 to February 19) You certainly have some interesting means by which to show you are the one who does value daily companions who have the same interests as yourself.

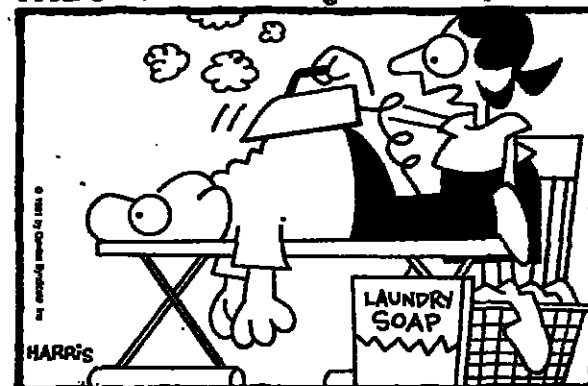
PISCES (February 20 to March 20) Money claims much of your attention and if you do those things that make your property both more attractive and valuable you are in tune with current aspects.

Today's child: If your child were born today she or he will very likely be one of those highly emotional youngsters who will be happy with an attachment that is completely devoted to them. A last carry and carry through earnestly if you want to keep this romance at a high point.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

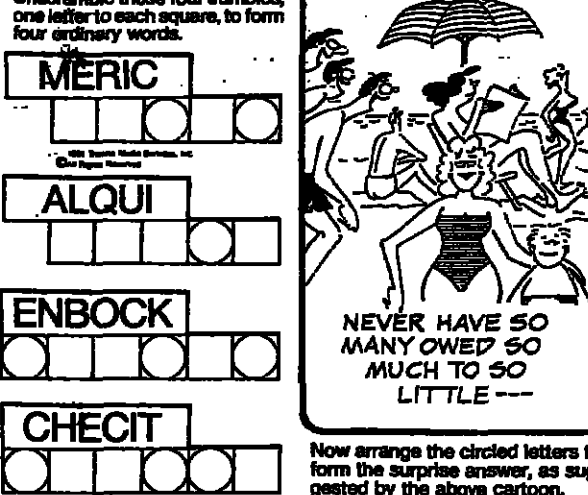
THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

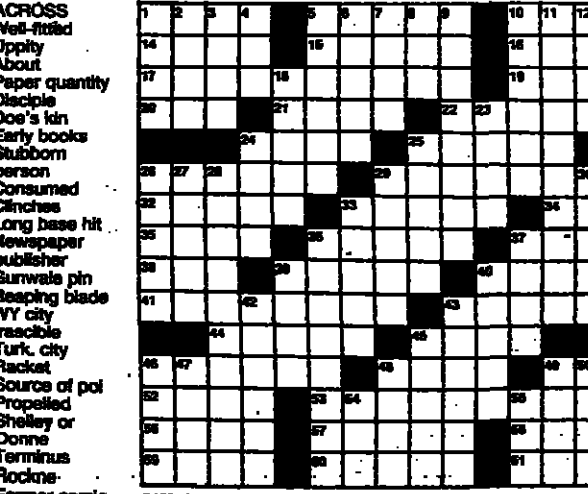
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: YOKEL MIRTH PUDDLE OUTLAW

Answer: Some women close their eyes while others LOOK BEFORE THEY "LIP"

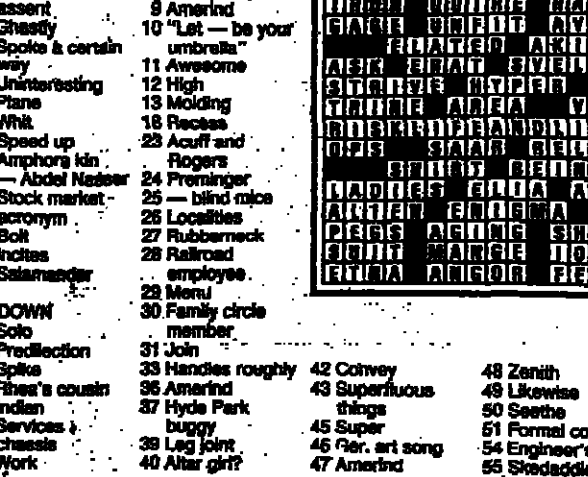
THE Daily Crossword

by Stephen Flock



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



Financial Markets
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (October 21 — October 25, 1991)

AMMAN — The U.S. unit emerged a beneficiary last week from a weak yen. Market focus shifted towards the mark-yen cross during the first half of the week, as technical corrections dominated in favour of the mark. Said corrections caused when market participants realised that the yen was overbought, after expectations of a G-7 sponsored strong yen were replaced by expectations of a Bank of Japan (BOJ) discount rate cut. A series of contradictory signals over the direction of international interest rates emerged Friday bringing confusion back to the scene. The dollar, nevertheless, maintained part of its gains, registering the week 1.25 per cent higher against the yen and an average of 0.30 per cent higher against major European currencies.

The yen dropped Monday in a technical correction which reflected favourably on the dollar. The Japanese currency came under pressure after the release of Japanese money supply figures, which showed growth in M2 had retreated to an annual rate of 2.2% in September. The data reinforced expectations of a BOJ discount rate cut, which were brought forth the previous week by comments from Kiichi Miyazawa, that the Japanese economy was "...in bad shape." Despite its significant slide, the dollar closed at its lowest closing levels of the week at 1.6920 marks, 130.75 yen and 1.7175 dollars to the pound sterling.

The dollar continued to rise Tuesday, buoyed by expectations of possible tax cuts by the U.S. administration to boost the recovery. Observers, however, maintained that the effects on exchange rates of such a step would remain limited until the measure was actually passed by Congress, a process which could take three months. The yen came under further pressure when the BOJ governor was quoted as saying that interest rates in Japan were unsustainably on a downward trend.

Wednesday took the dollar to its highest closing levels of the week at 1.7115 marks and 1.6990 dollars to the pound sterling and 131.68 yen. This came in spite of the release of a pessimistic report by the Fed on the state of the U.S. economic recovery. Observers attributed the rally to the dominance of technical factors, the most important of which was the breach of resistance at 1.7070 marks, which triggered a wave of stop-loss dollar short covering.

The U.S. currency retreated sharply Thursday, however. It started its decline when faint speculations of a possible Bundesbank interest rate hike triggered profit-taking on dollar-long positions held by technically driven traders in the Far East. The release of a larger than expected drop of 3.4% in U.S. September durable goods orders fuelled further declines later on in New York.

The dollar received some support Friday from President Bush's announcement that he would support the proposed tax cuts if they are within the administration's budget agreement with Congress. Traders, however, remained sidelined, confused by the new contradictory signals that appeared over the perceived direction of international interest rates. While speculation of a near term rise in German interest rates looked more probable because of worries of rising inflation, it became unclear whether the U.S. authorities were going to adopt monetary measures or fiscal measures to stimulate the recovery. On the Japanese front, the BOJ drained reserves from the banking system. A BOJ official attributed the move to the central bank's intention to dampen excessive expectations of a cut in the discount rate from its current level of 5.5%.

This week promises the release of a series of U.S. economic reports, which traders have to provide a new-stimulated market with a clearer near term dollar direction. The majority of expectations point to range trading until the release of the third quarter U.S. GNP figures on Tuesday Oct. 29, 1991.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	16/10/1991 Close	25/10/1991 Close	Percent Change
Sterling Pound*	1.7265	1.7130	-0.78%
Deutsche Mark	1.6873	1.6999	-0.74%
Swiss Franc	1.4955	1.4875	-0.53%
French Franc	5.2915	5.8010	-1.03%
Japanese Yen	129.85	131.49	-1.25%

* USD Per STD

Interbank Interest Rates*

Currency	1-3month (%)	1-Year (%)	1-3month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	5.12	5.37	5.25	5.56
Sterling Pound	10.43	10.12	10.43	10.25
Deutsche Mark	9.12	9.25	9.12	9.37
Swiss Franc	8.06	8.06	8.00	8.25
French Franc	8.93	9.21	8.87	9.18
Japanese Yen	6.53	5.82	6.53	5.75

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6860	0.6880
Sterling Pound	1.1736	1.1795
Deutsche Mark	0.4607	0.4651
Swiss Franc	0.4607	0.4630
French Franc	0.1181	0.1187
Japanese Yen*	0.5209	0.5235
Dutch Guilder	0.3578	0.3596
Swedish Krona	0.1110	0.1116
Italian Lira*	0.0539	0.0542
Belgian Franc	0.01958	0.01962

Per 100

God loses to mammon in British high court

LONDON (R) — God lost to mammon in a British court last week.

The Anglican bishop of Oxford, Richard Harries, had sought to force the Church of England to put Christian ethics at the forefront of its investment policies even if it meant making a loss.

But the high court turned him down, ruling that this would put the church, one of Britain's wealthiest landowners and investors, at odds with its existing legal obligations.

The dispute centred on investment income from the church's funds of some £3 billion (\$5 billion).

The church commissioners, who administer the funds, argued that the court action was a waste of time and, perhaps more importantly, money. They said they operated an ethical investment policy but not to the point where losses were incurred.

Bishop Harries' protest was originally against the church's investments in South Africa, but since that had become less contentious, the basis for his action was widened.

The church commissioners countered that they were obliged by law to obtain the best possible return on investments in order to give clergy their pay and pensions.

Sir Douglas Lovelock, first church estates commissioner, said: "We are very pleased with the result, although we obviously regret that it was necessary to have a court case to obtain this ruling."

The ruling contained a sting in the tail for Bishop Harries and his two fellow plaintiffs, Michael Bourke, archdeacon of Bedford, and the reverend William Whiffen.

The £30,000 (\$50,000) already paid into court to cover their legal costs will not be enough and their supporters will have to dig deeper into their pockets.

The Church of England, created by Henry VIII in the 16th century, is a state church — Queen Elizabeth II is its supreme governor — and is the mother church of the world's 70 million Anglicans.

Carpets lead surge in Iran's non-oil exports

NICOSIA (R) — Iran says triple sales of Persian carpets helped push up its non-oil exports by 91 per cent to \$600 million in the four months to July 22.

The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted director of customs Morteza Mohammadkhan as saying \$250 million worth of hand-woven carpets were sold to Europe, Gulf states and Asia.

The second biggest export item was pistachio nuts.

Iran this year drastically reduced carpet export taxes as part of its efforts to increase non-oil revenues.

Mr. Mohammadkhan said the procedure for carpet exports had been reduced to a couple of hours from several days. The number of customs offices handling exports would soon rise to 36 from 25.

Iran earned \$16 billion from oil and \$1.4 billion from non-oil exports in the year to March 20.

U.S. home lenders much more likely to reject blacks, Hispanics

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lenders turn down blacks and Hispanics for home loans much more often than whites and Asian-Americans, no matter what their income, federal regulators have said.

Last year, banks, savings institutions, credit unions and mortgage banking companies rejected 33.9 per cent of applications for conventional mortgages from blacks, 21.4 per cent from Hispanics and 22.4 per cent from American Indians. Rejection rates were just 14.4 per cent for whites and 12.9 per cent for Asian-Americans.

Federal Reserve Governor John Lawrence, a former banker, said the figures, compiled from 6.4 million loan applications submitted to 9,300 lenders, were "worrisome data, but I'm not

prepared to say there's discrimination until we get further into it."

He called for follow-up examinations of selected lenders to find out why they are rejecting minority applicants.

The rejection rates, although correlated by income, do not take into account such other factors as applicants' credit and employment histories and current debt loads.

However, Chris Lewis of the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, ACORN, said the figures were "not only an indictment of the banking system but a testament to the inadequacy of regulatory efforts to eliminate mortgage discrimination."

Henry Gonzalez, chairman of

the House Banking Committee, called on President Bush to hold a White House summit meeting of community groups, civil rights organisations and local government officials to devise a strategy for dealing with the issue.

"It matters not whether the discrimination is intentional. Discrimination by ignorance is just as harmful and just as destructive as discrimination by design," Mr. Gonzalez wrote in a letter to President Bush.

The industry's biggest trade group said it was appointing its own task force of bankers to come up with ways to increase lending to minorities.

"We are very concerned about these statistics," said Rob Dugger, chief economist of the American Bankers Association.

Rocketing land prices in Japan reported stabilising

TOKYO (AP) — Soaring land prices that have made home ownership a distant dream for most Japanese show signs of finally stabilising, according to a government report.

But while prices appear to have hit a ceiling, they still need to fall further, a former minister has said.

In a general slowdown that began last year and is now widespread, land prices in residential areas nationwide had increased an average 2.7 per cent over a year earlier by July 1, while commercial land prices rose an average 3.4 per cent, the land agency said in a report.

Both averages had surged over 13 per cent in the year before. Residential land prices in Tokyo fell one per cent from last year, down from the previous year's 11 per cent on-year increase.

Commercial land prices edged down 0.3 per cent from a 5.6 per cent rise last year. The declines marked the first year-on-year drop since the agency began the survey in 1975.

In Osaka, where residential land prices surged 48.2 per cent the previous year, they sagged 15.3 per cent. Commercial land prices also fell 8.9 per cent, compared to last year's 39.7 per cent jump.

As a result of the government's recent tighter lending policies, banks have become cautious about loans to the real estate sector, contributing to a settling of excessive land prices and bursting of what the Japanese have dubbed the "bubble economy."

"The government should not slacken its rein on the price of land in order to give staying power" to lower land prices, an editorial in the national Asahi Shimbun newspaper said.

People should be encouraged to abandon Japan's longstanding "three money-making principles" calling for them to "borrow money, don't hold cash, and go on buying land," it said.

Japan's most expensive commercial land, according to the survey, was in Tokyo's Ginza, a popular shopping area, where a square metre plot was valued at \$8 million yen (\$280,000).

The survey gave Tokyo's Chiyoda ward as the most expensive residential land, at 12.3 million yen (\$91,000) per square metre.

Latvia rations gasoline; Estonia redistributes land

MOSCOW (AP) — Latvia has begun rationing gasoline and Estonia gave citizens back land nationalised under communist rule, as the Baltic countries grappled with their new independence, a news agency has reported.

Latvian officials said the republic has only two days worth of gasoline in reserve because shipments have not arrived from Russia and Byelorussia since Latvia broke from the Soviet Union last month, the independent news agency Baltfax reported.

Officials have stopped selling gasoline to private individuals and instituted strict fuel-saving rules, Baltfax said, providing few details.

The chief of the Latvian oil association, Ints Jansons, called the shortage a "covert blockade" and said Latvia was considering buying oil abroad, Baltfax reported. Latvia is also speeding up plans to build its own refinery, he said.

Job cut announcements highlight increasing British unemployment

LONDON (AP) — As the government rejoiced over the latest inflation report in three years, British Telecom capped a month of dismal news for workers by announcing it would cut 16,000 jobs.

Earlier this month, the grocery company ASDA Group PLC, which employs 70,000 people, said it was cutting 350 jobs from its headquarters staff.

Hawker Siddeley PLC also announced it was cutting 8,000 jobs, or 18 per cent of its workforce.

Ford Motor Co.'s British arm, which currently employs 40,000 people, is in the process of completing 2,000 voluntary job cuts planned for the year.

British Telecommunications PLC said its cuts, representing eight per cent of its work force, reflected its reduced need for manpower because of improved efficiency and reliability of its system.

The increasing unemployment rate, now at 8.5 per cent, undoubtedly will be a big political issue in the run-up to the next

general election, which must be held before mid-1992.

Prime Minister John Major's government maintains that the economy is coming out of recession.

It announced last week that the annual inflation rate fell to 4.1 per cent in September, down from 4.7 per cent in the previous month, and down from a peak of 10.9 per cent a year ago.

But the weapon it used to fight rising prices — double digit interest rates — slowed economic growth and increased unemployment.

Britain's unemployment rate rose for the 17th consecutive month to 8.5 per cent in August, or 2.428 million unemployed.

The unemployment rate will rise to 10.9 per cent, or 3.1 million people, by the end of next year, predicted Robert Lind, a British economist with the London investment firm UBS Phillips and Drew.

"The opinion polls show the biggest concern for people now is unemployment. It will obviously be a drag on the government."

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Jordan to control feedgrain subsidy more effectively after cattle count

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Having completed a census of animals in Jordan, officials are now processing the collected data with a view to determining Jordan's needs of fodder and establish a cost-effective mechanism to channel subsidised feed to the right recipients.

Initial estimates put the total number of animals in Jordan at 3.5 million heads, with an error margin of 10 per cent, according to officials.

Work is under way to classify the animals into various categories, determine areas where they are concentrated and who owns them and to arrive at an estimated figure on the per head consumption and total requirements, officials said.

The process is expected to enable the government to tighten the distribution of subsidised feedgrains with a view to reducing government expenditure on subsidies and eliminating non-deserving sectors.

No figures were immediately available on the total consumption of feedgrains in Jordan. Government figures put the subsidy in its sector during 1990 at between JD 16 million and JD 18 million.

According to Trade and Industry Minister Ali Abul Ragheb, the government intends to eliminate subsidised feed for livestock imported for slaughter — a sector dominated by private businessmen after the government lifted import restrictions and opened the door for a free market for meat in the Kingdom.

"Why should the government pay to feed imported livestock which are slaughtered and marketed by the private sector?" Mr. Abul Ragheb asked. "The importers should not be entitled for subsidised feeds; they should purchase their needs at the market prices," he said in a recent interview with the Jordan Times.

Some of the businessmen in the trade are also involved in re-export of the livestock, which means that the government subsidies do not benefit the Jordanian public except the importer-exporter, economists noted.

Asked about the possibility that the denial of subsidised feed

to importers of livestock for slaughter could prompt the importers to raise prices in the local market, Mr. Abul Ragheb said the ministry was meeting the "basic demand" for meat by importing frozen meat and marketing them at cost price.

"Isn't JD 1.2 kilogramme of frozen meat reasonable for the average consumer?" he asked. "Those who insist on fresh meat for lavish occasions should also be prepared to higher prices. The government will not foot the bill."

At the same time, the minister said, the government is keeping a close watch on the market situation with a view to intervening whenever it felt "any imbalance" — implying that the ministry would step in with its own supply of meat if it was found that the private sector was boosting market prices to make beyond any acceptable level of profits.

Among other problems in the area of subsidised animal feed is clandestine "re-export" — smuggling — to neighbouring countries where the commodity is sold at regular market prices, thus fetching high profits for the smuggler.

Another problem, although not of any big scale, is posed by cattle and sheep-owners registering themselves at more than one distribution centre and thus taking undue advantage of the subsidies.

"Unfortunately we have had this experience, although the amounts involved were not very big," Mr. Abul Ragheb said.

The safety valve against such practices is expected to be a new procedure under which cattle breeders and livestock farmers will be registered and allocated predetermined amounts of feedgrains while maintaining a close watch on the volume of animals entering and leaving the country.

"We intend to keep ourselves closely and accurately informed of the number of livestock in the country, increases and decreases through imports and exports and their average needs of feed," Mr. Abul Ragheb said. "We will know about the slightest wave in the market situation and act accordingly."

JORDAN TIMES TEL: 667171

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Yugoslav army blockades Dubrovnik

EC condemns continued army attacks

BELGRADE (R) — The Yugoslav army and navy kept up a tight blockade of the historic port of Dubrovnik Sunday but Croatian rebel forces trapped inside firmly rejected a call to surrender.

Local army commanders, claiming victory after a three-week siege and days of heavy battles, laid down tough conditions for rebel forces over the weekend that appeared almost certain to provoke more fighting if implemented.

Croatian forces in Dubrovnik must surrender, hand over all weapons and leave the region, according to a letter to European Community (EC) observers and Croatian officials from the local army commander, Pavle Strugar.

Com. Strugar said he wanted an answer by Sunday at 8 p.m. (1900 GMT), but did not say what action his troops would take if the rebels fail to respond.

The government of Croatia, which declared independence from Yugoslavia on June 25, quickly rejected the conditions and vowed never to give in.

"There is no talk of capitulation," said Vice-Premier Zdravko Tomac in the Croatian capital of Zagreb after learning of the demands.

"We received this last (Friday) night and it is proof that the Yugoslav army is not giving up its goals," he said.

Croatia has accused the army

of wanting to take over the popular Croatian tourist city on Yugoslavia's southern Adriatic coast and annex it to a future greater Serbian state.

The Serbian-led federal army has sided with the 600,000-strong Serbian Orthodox minority which has rebelled against Roman Catholic Croatia's declaration of independence.

A local truce around Dubrovnik, held at the weekend despite minor incidents but looked increasingly like a pause before renewed fighting.

The EC, which has been trying to find a peaceful solution to the Yugoslav crisis, Sunday condemned the army demands as "an illegal act clearly aimed at the seizure of an indisputably Croatian city."

Army General Andrija Raseta, negotiating with the EC and Croatian officials in Zagreb, said the conditions were simple proposals for discussion, and added the army had no intention of entering Dubrovnik.

Yugoslav Defence Minister Veljko Kadijevic sent a further plan to Croatian President Franjo Tudjman Saturday calling for Dubrovnik to be demilitarised under EC supervision.

He also called for West European ambassadors to visit Dubrovnik's old town and see for themselves that claims of heavy

damage from army bombardments were "totally unfounded."

An EC relief convoy, expected to arrive by ferry, was due Sunday and evacuation of women and children trapped during the three-week army siege was expected to begin.

About 6,000 people so far have asked to be evacuated under Friday's ceasefire accord.

Army forces fired on a ferry bringing in relief supplies Saturday, wounding a crewman with shrapnel from a machinegun.

This appeared to be an isolated violation of Friday's truce, agreed after a day of heavy fighting in nearby coastal villages and outside Dubrovnik's mediaeval walls.

The federal army, dug in about two kilometres from the city walls, celebrated what it deemed to be a clear victory over the rebel Croatian militias in last week's fighting.

"They've been broken and forced back," army Major Radica Pavicevic told reporters over the weekend in Cavtat, 45 kilometres southeast of Dubrovnik.

Fighting in the Dubrovnik region over the past week left a trail of destruction, with popular tourist hotels devastated by shelling, homes and property ruined, and whole towns abandoned.

While guns fell mostly silent around Dubrovnik, fighting

raged in the Slavonia region between Zagreb and Belgrade.

A second day of heavy fighting was reported Sunday in the region where Croats and Serbs live in a tangle of rival villages.

The Danube River town of Vukovar, under siege for more than two weeks, was pounded again Sunday by army multiple-rocket launchers and howitzers, Croatian Radio said.

The town, where 15,000 Croats are holding out, was hit by more than 700 various missiles in the past 24 hours, it said.

It reported fighting throughout the region, around Vukovar, Vinkovci and Osijek — near the Hungarian border — and further west around Podravska Slatina, Pakrac and Daruvar.

At least 10 people were reported killed and 50 wounded in fighting in the region over the past two days, the radio said.

The EC blamed the federal army Sunday for the fighting in Slavonia and elsewhere in Croatia, condemning the military for repeatedly violating an EC-backed ceasefire which went into effect on Oct. 19.

"Ceasefire agreements have been violated by all parties, but recent JNA (Yugoslav National Army) attacks are out of all proportion to any non-compliance by Croatia," the EC said in a statement released by the Dutch presidency.

Human rights group says liberty worse in Britain under Tories

NEW YORK (R) — An international human rights group said Monday the climate for liberty in Britain had undergone a "marked change for the worse" under the Conservative government, in power since 1979.

The 66-page report issued by Human Rights Watch found the government used "the Official Secrets Act and laws of confidence to muzzle the press from covering defence, intelligence or military policy."

It also said the government had gained more police power over

protest demonstrations, spawned "draconian anti-terrorism measures" in Northern Ireland and "sanitised" books and periodicals through "onerous" libel laws.

The report said that within this climate the government was able to conceal from parliament a \$1 billion spy satellite, send a clerk to jail for leaking a government document and ban all broadcast interviews with members of a lawful political party.

The report was apparently referring to the British's first spy satellite project, code-named Zircon.

The project, which was abandoned, would have given Britain an independent eavesdropping capability.

In 1987, British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) television succumbed to government pressure and banned a programme on Zircon. The programme was later shown intact.

Sarah Tisdall, a young Foreign Office clerk, was jailed for six months in 1984 for sending to the Guardian newspaper classified documents about the arrival of U.S. cruise missiles to Britain.

Poles vote for new parliament

WARSAW (R) — Poles voted Sunday in parliamentary elections that complete the country's democratic transformation and test their will to carry on with Solidarity's tough free market reforms.

The first snows of winter swept across the East European country as polling began in the first free parliamentary elections since World War II following the collapse of Communist rule two years ago.

Despite the grim weather and signs of apathy and uncertainty among the electorate, Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki called the election "a celebration of democracy."

Warsaw polling station.

"I have waited all my life for this," he told reporters.

In the northern part of Poland, President Lech Walesa said Poland was beginning a new stage of development.

"We are finishing the most important stage of building democracy and now we will start preparing new laws and resolving economic problems," Mr. Walesa said as he cast his ballot.

The vote for the 460-seat Sejm (lower house) and the 100-seat Senate is a watershed in Poland's difficult post-Communist transformation.

Although the 27.6 million voters faced a bewildering array of candidates from more than 120 parties, their basic choice lay between parties for and against the radical political and economic reforms that the Solidarity movement launched in 1989.

"Society will say today what Poland wants, what speed of reform, what direction of reform," Mr. Bielecki said. "The most important thing is that society should make the decision."

Castro sees little chance of better ties with U.S.

HAVANA (R) — Fidel Castro said Sunday Cuba's relations with the United States will improve soon, adding that the Communist Party newspaper Granma reported Saturday.

"An unequivocal signal of (Washington's) good intentions would be an unconditional lifting of the 30-year economic embargo against Cuba, the return of the territory occupied by the (U.S.) naval base at Guantanamo, and a halt to threats, aggression and hostility against Cuba," Mr. Castro said.

Mr. Castro made the remarks to reporters on Oct. 23 during a visit to Cozumel, Mexico, for talks with the leaders of Mexico, Venezuela and Colombia.

"The possibilities I see at this

time are very few because the U.S. government now considers itself the owner of the world, the leader of a unipolar world," Mr. Castro said.

"It believes the Cuban revolution has no future, given all that has occurred in the Socialist camp, and it has not even the slightest interest in doing anything to improve relations between Cuba and the United States," he said.

Mr. Castro said there was little Cuba could do to ease the tensions with its powerful neighbour.

"It's difficult to ask us to send signals, when we're not blockading the United States, when we're not occupying a single piece of North American territory, and when we don't harbour hatred towards the United States," he said.

EC tells Mobutu to reform

or face consequences

Community (EC) ambassadors warned Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko in a meeting Saturday that the country faces "serious consequences" unless a representative government is installed, the EC said Sunday.

Ambassadors from EC countries and a community representative met Mr. Mobutu in the Zairean capital Kinshasa, the EC said in a statement released by its Dutch presidency.

The message said "serious diplomatic, political and economic consequences... on a bilateral and a community level" could follow unless a government of consensus was installed, the statement said without giving details.

Mr. Mobutu was forced to name an opposition prime minister after riots four weeks ago but last week fired opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi from the post.

Defying Western and domestic pressure to reappoint Mr. Tshisekedi, he picked veteran campaigner Mongu Diaka as the country's fourth premier of 1991.

Mr. Mobutu, accusing the West of "wanting my head at any price," vowed Sunday to remain in office and ruled out any power-sharing deal with Mr. Tshisekedi.

In an interview at his riverside residence in Nlele, Mr. Mobutu defiantly struck out at the "flagrant interference" by Western governments demanding drastic political reform.

"They want my head. They want my head at any price. But I cannot accept this sort of ultimatum. Nobody can dictate policy to me," said the 61-year-old leader, who took power in a 1965 military coup and was a key Western ally in Africa for the next 25 years.

"Now we understand that Western aid is mixed with all sorts of threats and blackmail," he said.

France, Belgium and to a lesser extent the United States — the three big players in Zaire — have piled pressure on Mr. Mobutu since army-led looting last month pushed Zaire towards total anarchy.

But the president said he would not heed calls to reappoint Mr. Tshisekedi, the opposition leader he fired on Oct. 21 after only two days as prime minister.

China vows no compromise, attacks Gorbachev, West

PEKING (R) — China's leaders, shaken by the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union, have vowed never to permit opposition, according to internal documents that denounce Mikhail Gorbachev, the United States and the West.

"Hold fast to the leadership of the (Communist) Party and never allow a multi-party system," said a 21-page study of the failed, hardline Soviet coup written for senior officials.

"Hold fast to the leadership position of Marxism, never allow pluralism."

After the changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, "Western hostile forces have launched their spearheads at China," said the strongly worded "study and reference" document issued on Sept. 23 to officials who were told to keep it secret.

"Never budge or compromise, never relax ideological struggle," ordered a secret 51-page analysis of the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe issued earlier this year.

Both documents were read by reporters.

Eastern European Communist

Miyazawa wins Japan party election

TOKYO (R) — Kiichi Miyazawa, 72, was elected Sunday to succeed Toshiki Kaifu as president of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), and thus as prime minister.

The result had been widely expected. The LDP Election Committee said Mr. Miyazawa won 285 of the 496 votes cast, more than the simple majority required to win the presidency.

Mr. Miyazawa, who at various times has served as minister for trade, foreign affairs and finance, is now assured of election to the post of premier when parliament reconvenes on Nov. 5 due to the LDP's stable majority in the lower house.

Mr. Kaifu will remain in office in a caretaker capacity until then. Few changes were expected in government policies. The LDP has held unbroken power since 1955.

Michio Watanabe, another former finance minister, came second with 120 votes and ex-Trade Minister Hiroshi Mitsuoka was third with 87.

Votes were cast by the 395 LDP members of parliament and 101 other votes came from an electoral college representing local party branches.

Though the three candidates had gone through the motions of campaigning, the result became a foregone conclusion two weeks ago when the LDP's largest faction led by ex-Premier Noboru Takeshita decided to back Mr. Miyazawa.

Few people showed enthusiasm for a race in which the winner has been chosen in advance by a few ruling party barons in backroom meetings.

"Miyazawa to win today's LDP race for party president-premier," read headlines in most national and regional newspapers Sunday.

Analysts and editorialists took the Takeshita faction to task for its decision to replace Mr. Kaifu with Mr. Miyazawa in a selection process that rendered the ballot a black comedy at best.

"It's all been decided so no one is interested in the election," said political commentator Soichiro Tahara. "Criticism is mounting over the LDP's method of picking a

Document released by the ruling party. More than half the LDP's chapter leaders in 47 prefectures told the Asahi Shimbun

with the way the election was taken.

Turnout among LDP rank-and-file members in the election was just 55 per cent, well below the 1982 level of 93 per cent.

The LDP headquarters said it budgeted about 1.5 billion yen (\$11.5 million) toward the cost of setting up polling stations and mobilising election workers.

Mr. Miyazawa doled out about one billion yen (\$7.7 million) to ensure his victory, newspapers said. The other two candidates each spent 500 million (\$3.85 million).

Even before the balloting was over, ruling party barons began the real task at hand — horse-trading over important party and cabinet posts.

Several possibilities for chief cabinet secretary and LDP secretary-general emerged after Saturday night sessions in the favouritism of politicians, expensive Japanese-style Ryotei restaurant.

Turkmenian parliament declares independence

MOSCOW (R) — Parliament in the Soviet Central Asian Republic of Turkmenia Sunday declared independence, making it the 13th republic to do so since August's failed coup.

TASS News Agency said the republic's parliament passed a law on independence, a day after more than 94 per cent of Turkmenia's 3.6 million population voted for secession from Moscow.

President Saparmurad Niyazov congratulated deputies and the republic's people on the declaration that Turkmenia was now a democratic independent state, TASS said.

Russia and Kazakhstan are now the only two republics not to have declared independence since the coup.

Moscow Radio said that 93.5 per cent of the population had also voted in favour of the internal and external policy of the republic's parliament and President Niyazov, published as a joint statement in local newspapers last week.

The statement said nothing could divert the predominantly Sunni Muslim republic from the path to independence and said armed formations would be set up to defend Turkmenian land.

It also vowed to respect human rights, but members of the fledgling opposition movement say the authorities will continue what they describe as the policies of stifling all dissent.

In a separate development, Russian President Boris Yeltsin, target of growing anger over food shortages and government paralysis, is expected to announce tough measures Monday aimed at restoring economic order in his republic.

After August's failed coup,

Mr. Yeltsin effectively seized the torch of political power from President Mikhail Gorbachev. But those 10 weeks have produced only conflict in his administration and a confusion of signals over economic reform.

The decisiveness he showed in mounting a tank to defy the coup plotters in August has been absent in government.

When Mr. Yeltsin Monday addresses the Russian Congress of People's Deputies, the republic's supreme legislature, he must anticipate a harsh winter of economic and social tension.

Long-overdue economic reforms need to be backed by powers to implement them, possibly in the face of strikes or mass protests.

Last year, the Soviet authorities quelled strikes by awarding large pay rises in several key areas. Railway workers, the backbone of the economy, were astonished at the scale of the increase they were offered without negotiation.

But with the money supply rocketing out of control and goods becoming ever scarcer, that "easy option" is not open to Mr. Yeltsin. This time, as the former Communist warned in a recent television broadcast, people must accept sacrifice.

Radio Russia said a delegation of coalminers from the Vorkuta Field in Siberia were due to fly to Moscow Sunday to discuss their demands for higher salaries.

Miners across the Soviet Union held a two-month strike earlier this year, dealing a heavy blow to the already staggering economy.

The freeing of prices from state control could prove the most controversial step in a country where the benefits of a market economy still seem only a distant vision.

Hun Sen calls on overseas Cambodians to return home

SYDNEY (R) — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen Sunday called on Cambodians living overseas to return home to help prevent the radical Khmer Rouge regaining control.

"To stop the Khmer Rouge returning, Cambodians overseas should combine forces and contribute to the reconstruction of Cambodia either financially or by returning themselves," Mr. Hun Sen said at the start of a five-day visit to Australia.

The peace agreement signed in 1991 ended 15 years of war would not stop the Khmer Rouge regaining power, Mr. Hun Sen said.

He would be seeking, Mr. Hun Sen said he was worried about the amount of financial aid the world would allocate to the reconstruction of Cambodia.

The signing of the Paris accord sets in motion the U.N.'s biggest and costliest peacekeeping mission.

Under the banner of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), thousands of military and civilian personnel will disarm combatants and supervise ministries of the Phnom Penh government until elections can be held.

Until then sovereignty will lie with the Supreme National Council, comprising the government and three guerrilla allies ranged against the Khmer Rouge, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and followers of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the former king who is to return to Phnom Penh next month as de facto head of state after years of exile.

The full UNTAC is expected to begin operations in 1992 and cost more than \$1 billion. It is not clear who will pick up the bill.

Australia is to give \$15 million (17 million dollars) to help meet the cost of the U.N. peacekeeping effort, plus another 15 million dollar to cover the cost of sending an estimated 1,000 Australians to join the U.N. force.

Evans has estimated Australia's total financial commitment may reach 40 million dollars (\$31 million).

Meanwhile, the Cambodian factions Sunday played down ceasefire violations and voiced confidence that peace would prevail under United Nations auspices.

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COLUMN

A night to remember for airport worker

LONDON (AP) — Dominic O'Brien won't easily forget Saturday night. It's the night he became a memory champion.

The 34-year-old airport operations manager beat six other finalists in Memorial '91 by memorising the order of a deck of playing cards in two minutes, 29 seconds, according to the organizers, the Brain Club. It said the previous record of 2:59 was held by Creighton Carvello, a psychiatric nurse, who can also remember the value of PI to more than 2,000 places.

He placed fifth in the contest held here. Among his accomplishments, Mr. O'Brien lists remembering 35 decks of cards — 1,820 cards — shuffled and shown to him once. He made two mistakes after taking hours to list them in order.

practice, like doing pushups, said Mr. O'Brien, who won a set of encyclopedias. The contest also included speed chess and memorisation of text, names and faces.

Secret society at Yale votes to admit women

NEW HAVEN (AP) — Alumni members of Skull and Bones have voted to admit women to their secret society at Yale University, rejecting a last-ditch effort by those who wanted to keep the 159-year-old club male.

Skull and Bones' directors decided in May to welcome Yale women into the private club, whose alumni include President Bush, class of 1948. Members ratified the decision, 368-to-324, in nationwide balloting. Six women were about to be initiated last month when a group of dissenting Bonesmen, including conservative columnist William F. Buckley Jr., obtained a court order blocking the break with tradition.

The group's lawyers forced a second vote. Thursday night's toll was not released, but Bonesmen who demanded anonymity said about 55 per cent voted to admit women. The oldest and most prestigious of the senior societies at Yale, Skull and Bones is one of only two that have not tapped women since the Ivy League school first accepted women in 1969.

Initiates must take a pledge of secrecy and ban their souls in rites designed to build lifelong bonds.

Debt collectors use male sweat to make people pay up

LONDON (R) — One whiff of man's armpit can send the most recalcitrant debtor reaching for his cheque book, a British company has found. It is offering debt collectors the discovery to help them persuade people to pay up.

Researchers discovered that a pheromone called Androstenone found in the sweat men produce from their armpits and groin has a magical effect on the recipients of bills treated with the substance, making them more willing to settle their debts. The British company Bodywise, which discovered and patented the substance, said Friday it is offering the product to debt collecting agencies at \$3,600 (\$6,000) a gramme.

"It's the subconscious equivalent of red print. It says this letter comes from a person who means business, who is not someone to be messed with," said David Craddock, managing director of Bodywise, which calls its product Acolus 7. Bodywise obtained patent after conducting a trial in Australia in which it sent 1,000 bills, half of which were treated with Acolus 7. It found that 17 per cent of people receiving treated bills paid up more than those who were not.

Life is tough for Kenyan barmaid after winning car

NAIROBI (R) — Margaret Mwili just wants to be a barmaid but says that since winning a \$20,700 car in a Kenyan company quiz competition, her life has been a nightmare.

After she sold the car, she lost the money, robbed her house near Nairobi and in a number of separate incidents men have attempted to kidnap or blackmail her. Mwili told the daily newspaper Kenya Times her life had become a nightmare despite the money — a barmaid earns about \$30 a month in Kenya — and she was so fed up she was going home to stay with her parents to lie low.

